

pers_comp_b345

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Narrative/

concept:

pers_comp_b345

In response to an article on the Biotech Century (Jeremy Rifkin, 1998) and the current research and experimentation with DNA computing, and with the concept of fear as a driving force, we have imagined a future in which technology and the science of nature work together towards a very personal computing. We forecast a future in which computers will be able to harness the immense info-processing capabilities of human DNA and the energy-production capabilities of the human body to function seamlessly and to allow for computer production and personalization to be understood and undertaken by consumers. Continuing in the path of our increasingly emotionally-attached relationships with our computers, and increasingly developed virtual identities/self, *the pers_comp_b345* would be dependent of its human user, sharing it's genes.

We mean to lift the issue of our increasingly intimate/ human relationships with the virtual world and the fear of losing touch of reality/ humanity through the excessive use of computers/ robots/ virtual realities with an ambiguous enthusiasm. We strive to showcase and analyse the perverse idea of sexual tension between human beings and machines, as they feed their clone pods by transferring DNA-containing body matter; poking fun at the technologically prude , as a means for greater understanding of the consequences/ possibilities of a close human/computer bond. The intimate scenarios and products produced will serve to evoke a exaggerated and visceral response in viewers/users as a means for understanding the innate and deep-set needs, desires, social scripts and norms that currently inform the design of personal computers and that will continue to in future.

what it is:

Human DNA is required for the functioning of personal computers

in this future, users *feed computers* with DNA to allow it process greater amounts of information than current computers, power is provided to computers with the bodily energy of users. So the process of powering the machine would be carried out by the same biological functions as keep the body energized and alive, requiring a healthy, well-rested, well-fed self, and the computing power would be made much more powerful and efficient by introducing the immense processing capabilities of DNA to the computing powers of binary code.

based on the DNA computers or Molecular computers
but a more *symbolic, critical, poetic* rendition of the concept

in which the return of modern tech to *organic* is of great importance,

it would need contact to function, the more you are in contact with it, skin to skin, the better it would work

new relationship to computers

- virtual self is an actual physical, *biological* thing/being (virtual realm is embodied by a living, biological being supported by the user - supported in the same sense that life support keeps a human alive, or perhaps the relationship is similar to that between parent and child, depending on the level of intimacy and comfort felt with the personal computing thing)

---> this technology is comparable to a clone: in that it shares the owner's DNA

- the act of transferring our DNA to computer. creates a new intimacy with *technology*, an intimacy that has developed over time with a gradual dependence on communications tech, social networking media, and a general ease in computation. new habits come to be formed, as fluid exchange and connection to a human power source is regularly required to make function the machine, these actions come to be part of a daily routine.

---> due to the very intimate nature of the exchange of fluids for DNA transfer, sexual connotations are strong and new sexual tensions are felt with our computers. Computers come to be even more personal - with the sharing of computers coming to be similar to the sharing of a toothbrush, or the sharing of a lover - not entirely appreciated.

two main categories of users:

- those who are *tech-friendly* / comfortable with computers will lean towards an intimate relationship and transfer (to varying degrees)
- those who are *skeptical* / uncomfortable with computers and technologies will lean towards a more antiseptic, platonic, matter of fact usage (to varying degrees)
mainly speaks of our *fear* of technological advancements, the age old fear of computers having of their own and taking over human life.
also draws on themes of *well-being* / and to certain degree *pets* -

This intimate & personal DNA computer is made possible by a FEAR of:

- loneliness (need for companionship)
- ignorance & uncertainty (need for knowledge)
- boredom (need for constant stimulus and entertainment)

MORE**NARRATIVE:****Future/****Relatively****Near****Future/****2045ish**

In a world in which technology - notably communications technology, the internet, the personal and portable computer, paired with social networking media - has come to present the average north american human/consumer with an overabundance of stimulus and information, confusion and mental distress have come to be the norm. The ability to immediately and emotionally engage with any form of info with the tapping of "enter" also denotes the tendency/ability to distance oneself in just the same fashion. apathy is the norm, and society is made up of a mass of highly entertained yet highly passive, unproductive and inactive (especially in the sense of physical movement and connection) individuals. Autonomy and isolation have become the norm, with socialization being almost completely technologically mediated. In this context, the DNA computer emerges - allowing a human connection to be had with a fleshfull computer pod - a pod that needs caring for, maintenance, companionship, physical support and contact in order to function. A computer that shares genetic info with the user - that is a product of and tool for the human. A computer that can re-infuse the human into humanity? A computer that is offspring, that can be raised to be trusted. This trust of the machine and embodiment of the info/experience had online is able to combat the confusion, and to engage the user in a process of self-understanding - an understanding of their influence and potential for action. Now this is a pretty utopic product in a distopic environment. But it could easily become an addictive product causing further isolation and coming to be privatized and regulated by large tech and pharmaceutical companies - causing addiction and run by forces outside of consumer control further pushing users into submissive, distressed situations.

WEBSITE CONCEPT:

The website is meant to convey an anonymous, clandestine, hacker feel with its "un-designed", random formatting. We encourage viewers to plays all the scattered videos at the same time for an overwhelming feel.

The website, being a collection of images/videos posted on social media sites, acts as an objective(?) look on the everyday, personal uses of the pod by individuals

But the fact that this harmless footage is being collected and stored together sparks unease. Expanding on the idea of fear, the "found footage" raises suspicion about the potential dangers of the computer. Specially the images shot from the computer's point of view.

Can this thing see independently of our command?

Who posted these files? How did he/she/it access them?

Did the pod make this website? Why would it be collecting data?

Or is someone trying to warn us?

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