

[Curatorial Note: Preface]

Apperceptional Glimpse: Traumatized Conventions

The ongoing global pandemic triggered by COVID-19 unwittingly invites the seismic cataclysm throughout the entire human society. Our socioeconomic development and achievement based on the tide of globalism is now forced to face an unprecedented challenge, which a number of luminaries commence the discourse on the post-pandemic reality under the name of 'New Normal'.

Nevertheless, the reality we are undergoing and slated to confront might neither 'New' nor 'Normal'. It would rather be another evidence of our negligence towards the 'Old Future' that are surfaced by the pandemic. The charkha of AI powered by the eye-spinning advancement of neural network algorithm and computing power is about to fabricate an independent superintelligence, which means human beings have an alter ego who could provide a third eye perspective about themselves for the first time in their history. Beyond its political, economic and sociocultural impact as a technology, AI has potential to function as an objective barometer to evaluate the fundamental of civilisation in terms of both desirability and sustainability.

Whilst AI offers a motivation of introspection that originated from ourselves, COVID-19 crisis is a scathing question from the external environment about the topological stance of homo sapiens: what position do we occupy among our surroundings and where should we? Unfortunately, it turns out that this long standing challenge now appears and appeals in more imminent, intensive and comprehensive way as this global chaos illustrates.

The curatorial intention of this project lies in the eclectic provocation of this conundrum. As the virus transcribe its RNA using its DNA data and host cell, scientific findings and insights about the current pandemic I acquired become the inspirational source of artistic creation by Herman Kolgen, Shohei Fujimoto and Kyoka which result in a socially thought-provoking artwork respectively.

As mentioned above, post-pandemic challenges will come into reality with unexampled level of intricacy, unpredictability and diversity. And I firmly believe that the sensible combination between capabilities embedded in era-defining technologies like AI and directions shaped by timely social narrative should take the central stage for getting over them. The important thing is, this approach has never been new and does not provide any indicator to label normality to either of pre/post pandemic world. It is just a chapter of endless story of human's metamorphic revision, just like a virus constantly mutate itself for survival. I sincerely hope this project could make an apperceptional glimpse of the journey and art's meaning in it.

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