Inner self drawing machine

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ABSTRACT

Besides men and women, people can be neither man nor woman, fluid identity, transgender, and agender. Not only that, in terms of sexual orientation, besides heterosexuals, there are homosexuals, bisexuals, pansexuals, and asexuals as well. However, ignorance and lacking empathetic understanding of those sexual minorities make their lives harsh and suffering. For instance, in the case of transgender people, 28% of them postponed their health care due to discrimination, 19% of them refused medical care altogether, and 28% of them experienced verbal harassment by medical professionals, according to a 2011 national transgender discrimination survey (USA). Unluckily, we are apt to generate a basic understanding of others based on their gender expressions and use such irresponsible and heuristic findings to deal with others. Thus, we decided to create an installation to at least minimize the gap for a moment when the audience can enjoy themselves by watching the drawing performance of their idea portrait (inner-self). Regarding the AI portrait painter, we leverage StyleGAN to generate the continuous gender spectrum of each participant based on their facial features, in which they can choose their ideal gender representation that reflects their inner self the most. Then our AI portrait painter "draws" the selected "self" on the canvas. In general professional painters can detect and draw the most confident and beautiful us, on the other hand, we tend to exaggerate our flaws and ignore our attractive parts. When the drawing performance finishes, the audience can receive the drawing result as a well-printed portrait simultaneously. The printed portrait also works as a souvenir of participating in our exhibition. Our work aims to raise an empathic understanding
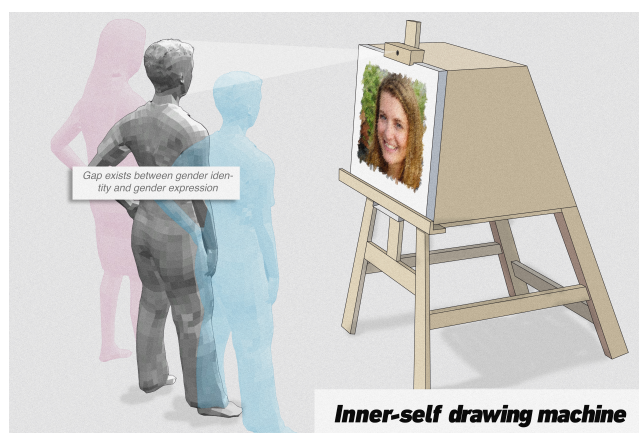
Gap exists between gender identity and gender expression

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of the various sexual minorities for a more inclusive, preferable, and sustainable world.