MAXIM IMANOU FADEEV

PORTFOLIO

PROJECTS

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«A List», 2022

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«Pravda», 2022

«Meta ID», 2021

«Coffee Machine», 2020

SITE: [WWW.IMANOU.ART](http://www.imanou.art)

EMAIL: MAXIMIMANOU@GMAIL.COM

«After Lars», 2022

Maxim IMANOU Fadeev, Dima Belysh

This work is personal reflection and archive of stories based on the phenomenon of the Verkhny Lars border crossing. At the end of September 2022. Right after the announcement of mobilization in Russia. It consists of two parts:
1) An ever-expanding archive of stories and media.
2) The performance of "Lars 24."

Archive

We have collected stories of people crossing the Georgia's border after mobilization was announced in Russia.
Men and women, children and animals, who voted with their feet. In those stories, people share different aspects of this experience. From kindness of strangers to extortion, and psychological pressure from the officials. Military and police, working with criminals, were not trying to solve problems but facilitate them and to earn as much as possible in the process. You can read them here.

Performance

You can read about performance and see it documentation on the website of the project.

Website — https://www.imanou.art/lars-main

«Farewell to Königsberg», 2022

A/V performance

   Leaving home is never easy. Especially when you are forced to do it. This is a last work I created in Kaliningrad before known as Königsberg. This A/V performance, explores the topic of transformation of a territory and people living on it. After WW2 Königsberg became a Kaliningrad, the native population get pushed away and get replaced by a communist party with soviet people. Adolf Shevchenko was one of those people. Adolf started to picture the transformation of the city using linocuts. They became a visual basis of this piece. This work combines many agents, idea of curator Danil Akimov, my interpretation of history of the city and AI algorithms.

   Presentation of this work was done at Sound Around festival at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, at the same time as news about "partial mobilization" arrived. This was the moment, I felt like this native population of Königsberg who was pushed away. I understand, that I might never get back to the place a was born and grew up. The place I loved. War and politics again become a driving force of transformation of territory, which get abandoned by many of its citizens, and a start for new chapter for those who leave but also who decided to stay.
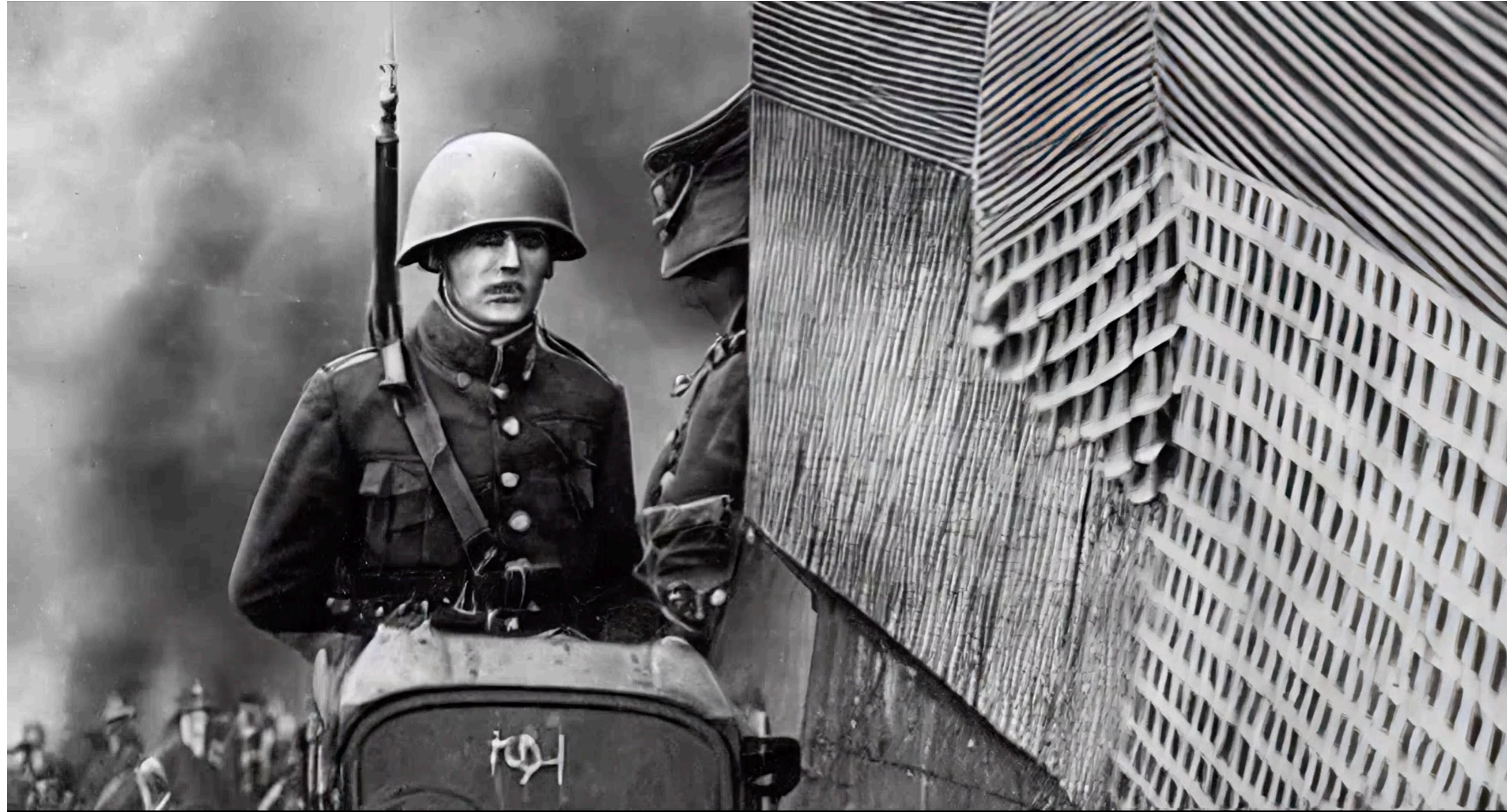
hard:
- arturia minibrute
- akai apc 40
- volca keys
- laptop

soft:
- ableton live
- pure daya
- disco diffusion
- stable diffusion
- Aphantasia
- resolume
- giga studio video enhance ai

«Farewell to Königsberg», 2022

Video Documentation — https://youtu.be/JRRtCucrjBw

«Collective Biases in AI», 2022

Media Research

How culture become a technology and then technology become culture?

We explore these topic through this collection. To do so, we use [Disco Diffusion](#) version 4.1, created by Somnai_dreams. Which is a combination of two machine learning algorithms: [Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic](#) model and [Clip](#).

Disco Diffusion can generate images from text, anything from beautiful landscapes to a logo. But while experimenting with this technology, we stumble upon a question: what if we generate something simple, yet abstract? Like God? We tried a few abstract words and were surprised by the obtained results. So we created a list of words and started to generate them one by one.

The generative process with Disco Diffusion is unpredictable and unrepeatable. Taking it into account, we generated images for each of the words at least twice. Then we selected the most meaningful results, 55 images in total.

Dataset from User to Technology
Disco Diffusion is based on the Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic model for image generation. This model was trained on 2 datasets.
1. [ILSVRC 2012 subset of ImageNet](#).
2. [LSUN](#).

Let us take a close look at the datasets and how they are created, which will help us to better understand how this process affects the results of image generation. There are similarities and differences across the two datasets, but for now, let's explore LSUN.

LSUN is created with image data from Google. The first step is to search for certain keywords in Google images. Next, these images were annotated by Amazon Mechanical Turk workers. They labeled the images according to three main categories — fit the description, don't fit the description, and unknown. Based on these annotations, the machine learning algorithm learns to classify objects by itself. Then it analyzes the remaining search results using this training. This creates the dataset used to train generative models.

This process affects the output of machine learning algorithms that are trained on this dataset. When you ask the Disco Diffusion to produce an image, you tap into the consciousness and unconsciousness of many actors, including people, media, search engine algorithms, and generative AI.
However, this process introduced a lot of bias along the way.
We call this a Bias Stack.

Website — https://collectivebiases.art/

«Collective Biases in AI», 2022

Images

Freedom

Liberty

«Collective Biases in AI», 2022

Images

Femininity

Masculinity

«Collective Biases in AI», 2022

Images

God

Humanity

Website — https://collectivebiases.art/

«A List», 2022
Data driven audio performance

   When we are born, we get registered. The birth certificate is a beginning of our integration into society and our identity.

   Later in life, the amount of list we become a part of increases as the amount of our responsibilities and obligations. We can become a part of a list voluntarily, or we can get listed against our will.
This work explore these phenomena of getting listed using the list of Russian Foreign Agents — non-profit organization, non-governmental press and individuals who are financed by foreign country or are under the influence of it. But the truth is it a list of people with a world view that opposes or threatens the current regime agenda.

   This work was created before the start of "partial mobilization" in Russia. When thousands of people get listed against their will. Getting listed mean you have a choice, to go to war, prison, or hide and run. This is a choice that is nobody wants to face, and yet it is very real. Many of my friends get listed, some of them relocated in a hurry to another country. As did I.

Video Documentation — https://youtu.be/p1VDhRzvUsU

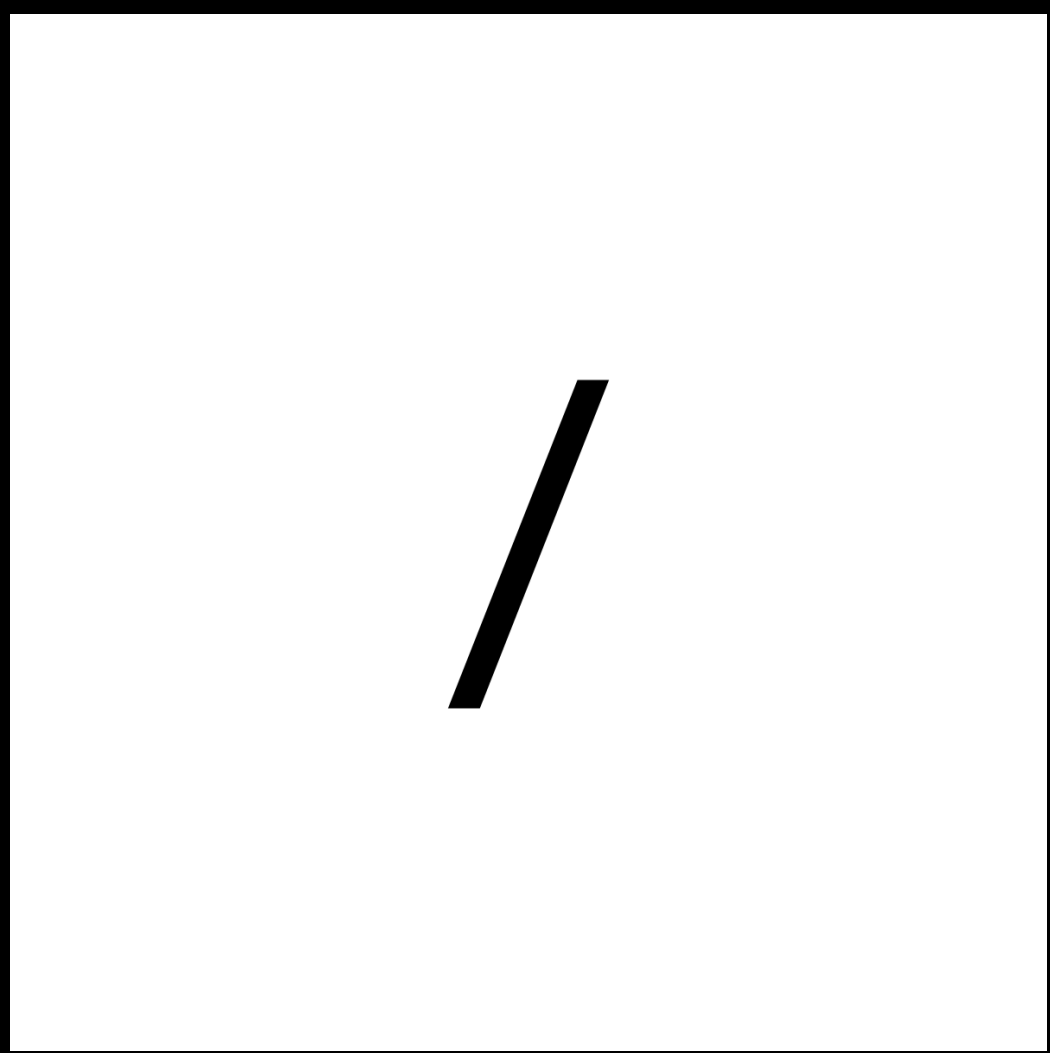# «Four Characteristics of Duality», 2022
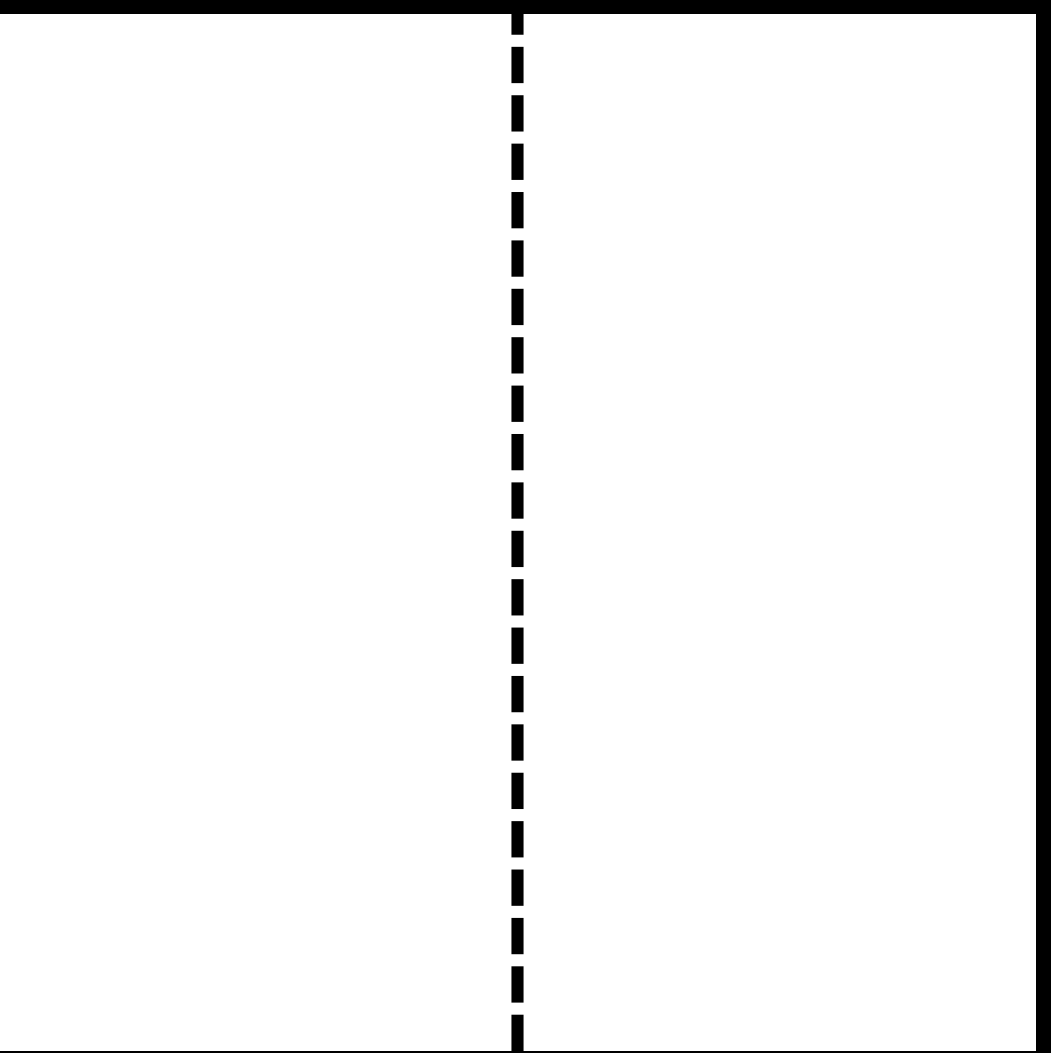
Visual Research
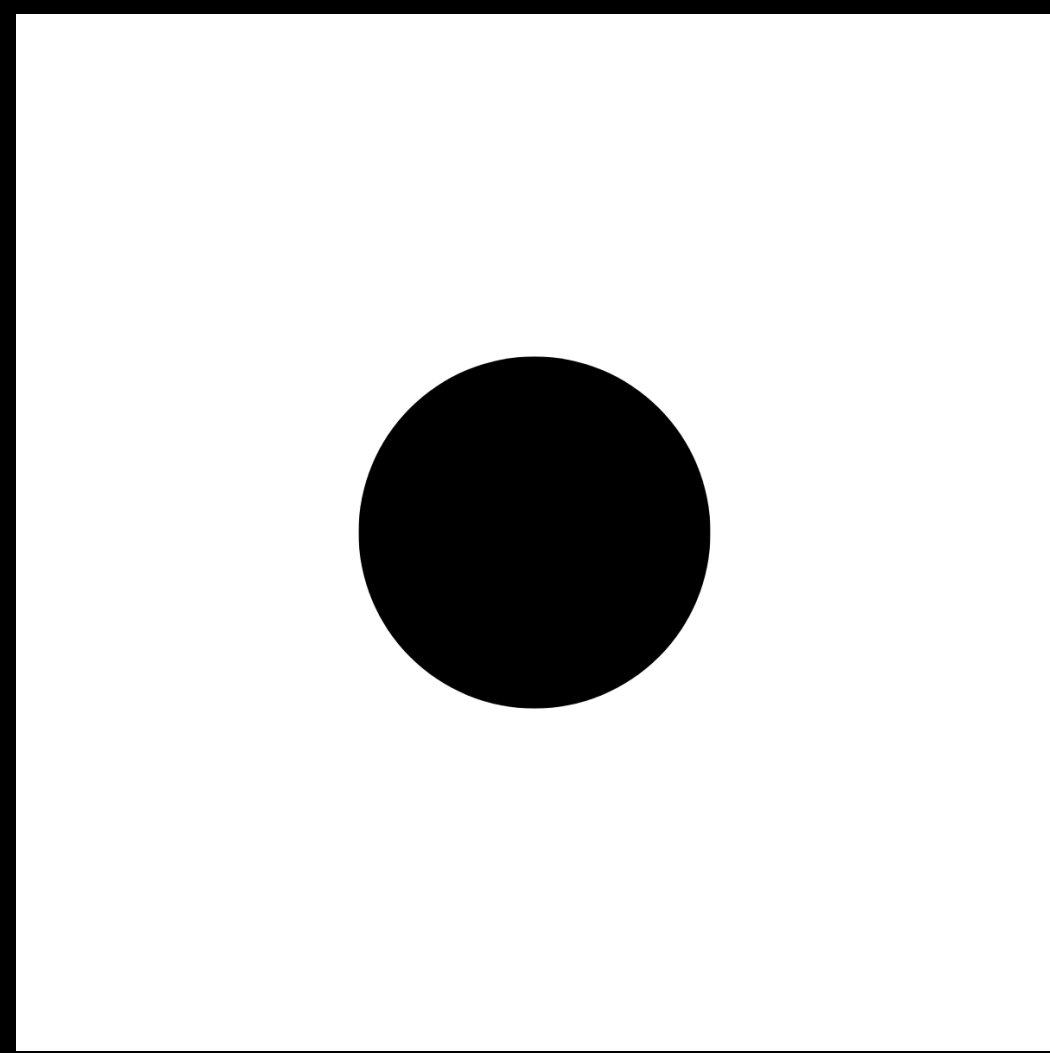
Part and whole
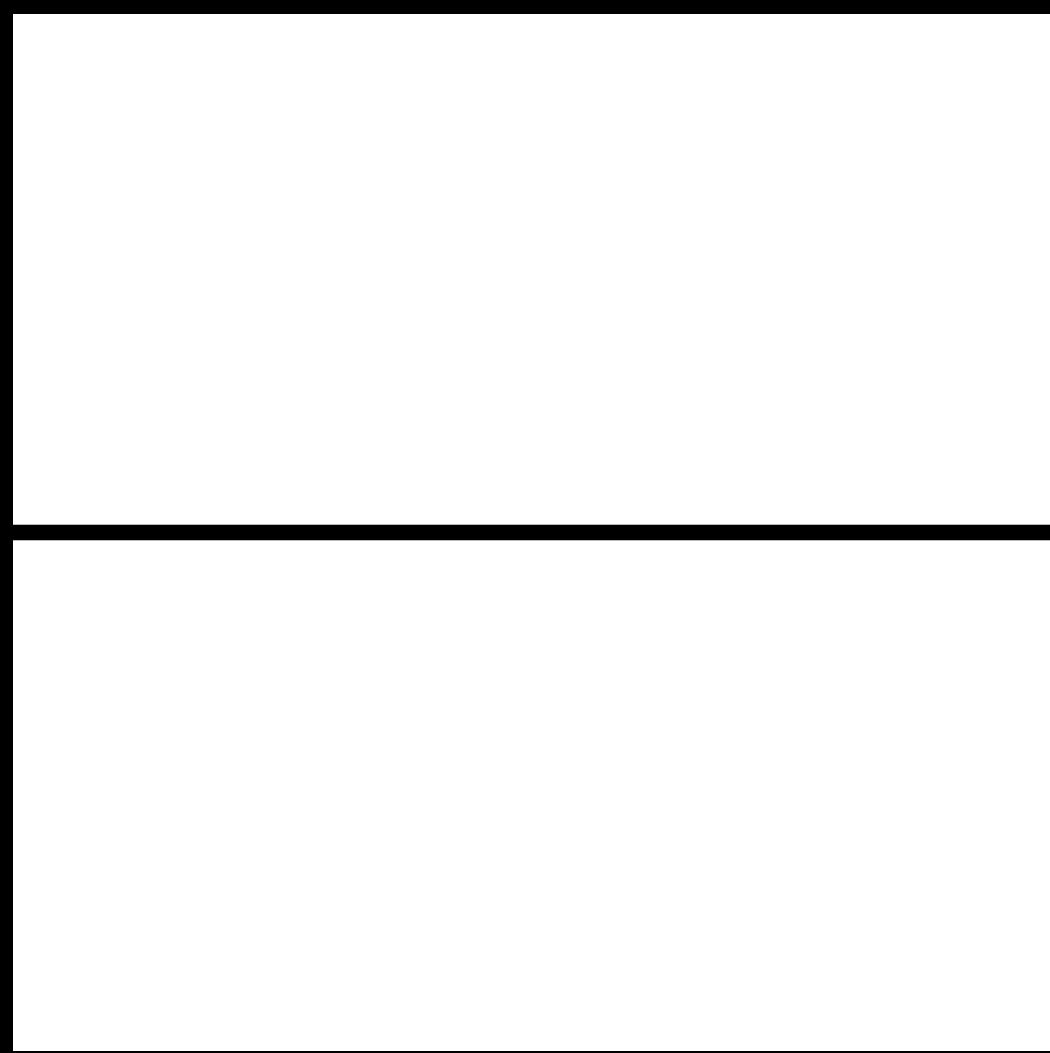
Boarder

Opposition

Illusory

«Pravda», 2022
Performance

   In the age of massive migration, national tensions, censorships, post-truth, and propaganda it is hard to distinguish reality from misinformation and also to connect with people who are different from you. One of the tools of modern propaganda is to create contradictory stories to confuse people so they feel like there is no truth or it can't be found. We also live in a nationalism-driven era, in which many people are pushed to believe that the "other" is very different from us, and often this "other" is dehumanized, demonized, and portrayed as an enemy by government states and its media. This affects not only the attitude towards different nationalities but also minorities. In times like this, the space for safe, open, and truthful discussion between people with different national and cultural backgrounds and identities is critically important. As Yoav Noah Harari said: "When you no longer think that dialog is possible, and you don't want to hear another person's story, the only thing you can do is fight". In order to avoid fighting we need to speak openly with each other. The goal of this performance is to create a space where open, safe and honest discussion is possible.

   This performance is called «Правда (Pravda)» and it is a Russian word for «truth». But in Russian there are two different words for truth, subjective and objective. Subjective truth is «Правда», objective is «Истина (Istina)». What is subjective truth? It is our beliefs, experience, ideas, and attitudes. But sharing this openly, especially with a stranger, might seem like not the best idea or even a dangerous one. But this is the only way to build trust, understanding and inclusion of a real (not broadcasted) image of "other" in our worldview.

   The mechanics are very simple. In a public space, there are two chairs, one in front of the other. There is an artist on the first one, and the second one is free for participants. The one who takes a seat promises to tell only truth (Pravda) and the artist gives the same promise. A dialog starts with a participant's question. After the artist answers it, it is his turn to ask. Each of them asks three questions.Then the artist leaves the chair, so his place is available for the public to participate. Therefore strangers can rotate and speak to each other. There are no limits to questions topics, no matter how provoking or personal they are.
   This performance has two forms, private and public. In a public form, guests can experience those dialogs and participate. In a private, there are no spectators. Only those having a conversation. In case participants do not have a common language to speak, there is a translator to make it possible. There are online and offline variations for both forms.

   This work is created to facilitate trust, understanding, and exploration of other. And to create a chance to hear the personal truth and stories and serve as a tool of unification.
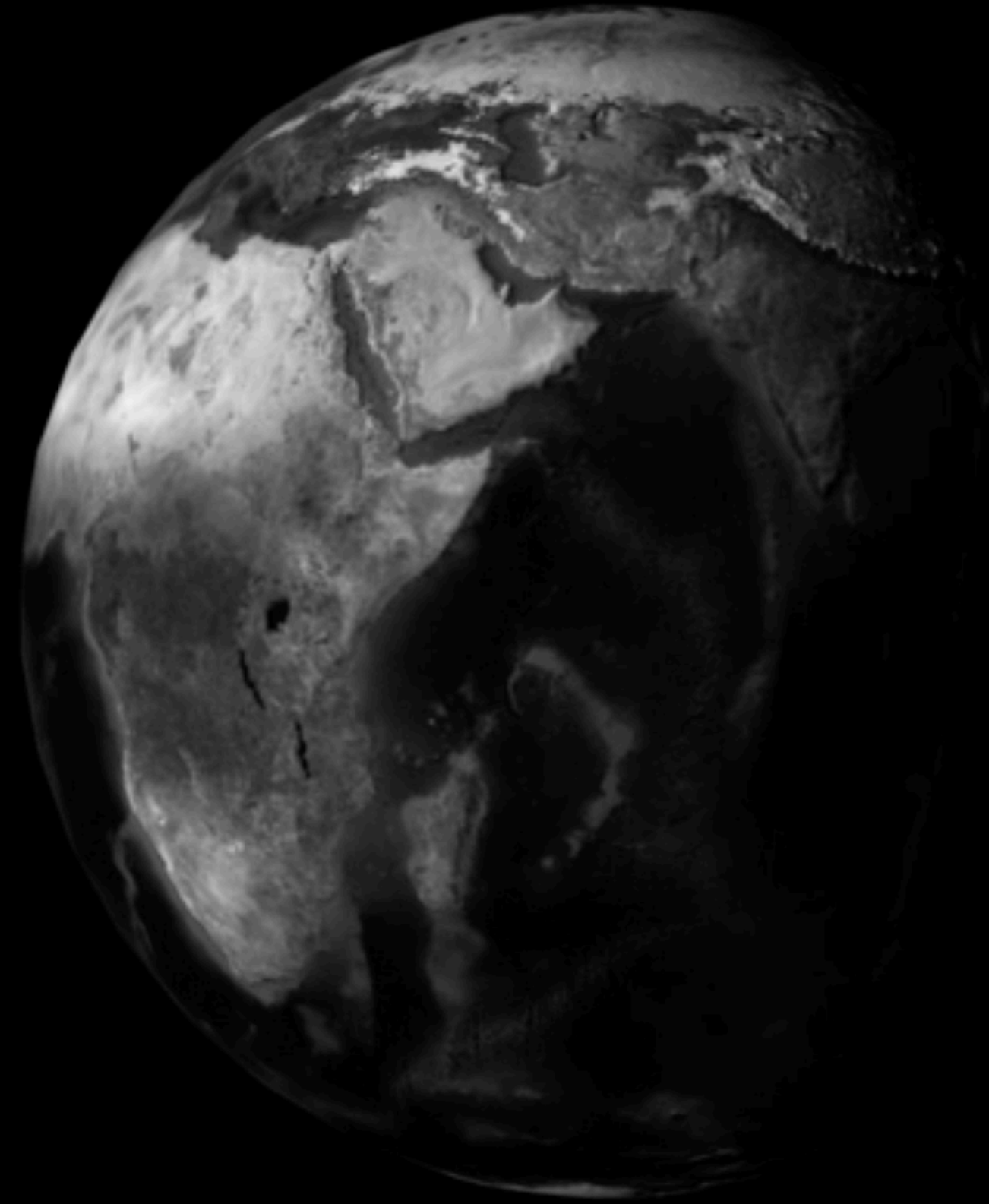
«Pravda», 2022

«Meta ID», 2021

Speculative design

Passports of today are made for imposing identity on us. These documents designed to control our movements behaviour and to analyse us on a basis of interest to the economy. How can we rethink the future of ID?

Website — http://metaid.tilda.ws/

«Coffee Machine», 2020
Media Installation

Coffee is the most popular drink in the world. Only water is more popular than coffee. 2.25 billion cups of aroma beverage are consumed every day. Consumption boom has its effects.

Special climate - subtropical and equatorial - is required for coffee to grow. The same climate that rainforests are located in. Every year coffee plantations area increases as many as 100.000 ha. Consequently, rainforests are removed from nearly the same area. After a few years of coffee production this soil becomes exhausted. The groundwater level drops and water becomes polluted with fertilizers. This process is called deforestation. With every consumed cup we decrease biodiversity, accelerate climate change and mutate our bodies.

Coffee Machine — artwork that illustrates underlying principles off coffee industry as well as its ambiguity. There are reservoirs with brewed coffee. The installation is driven by real-time data about forests loss. This information triggers a valve opening. One hectare of forest is lost, one drop of coffee falls. The drops fall on the preheated electric stove. The coffee is hissing and dancing on that stove, making a noise. 4 microphones pick up that noise and send it on 4 speakers, located at the corners of the room. The volume is on the edge from pleasurable to disturbing sound. This is how we remove boundaries between pleasure and payoff. Such a flow chosen for a special reason: coffee brewing is the second most destructive (after cultivation) process in the industry.

«Coffee Machine», 2020

Video Documentation —
https://vimeo.com/516628736