

## Matthew Saul - Artist statement

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this day and age continues to evolve. Its endless exploits and its uses in science and technology has changed our lives considerably over time. Where limitations have been met in the physical realm, computers and artificial systems sought to go beyond what we thought possible. Now we have its abilities to learn and develop AI through an artistic medium questioning our fundamental preconceived notions of reality and whether or not creativity is what differentiates us from it. My main aim as an artist focuses on these questions by exploring abstract emotions, conveyed through the aid of programming and other digital mediums.

My work uses a range different media within the installations to transpose the experiential as represented within my writings. I first create, write and express my emotions using poetry, conceptualising the basis for further experimentation. My process in creation is largely inspired by AI and computer programs. Through digital experimentation I can visualise a range of possibilities through 3D modeling of installation spaces. This allows me to consider the physical logistics of each installation prior to an exhibition or show. Using computer and AI systems gives me control in the same way a painter controls their brush. I can be precise and alter intricate details that would be otherwise physically challenging, whether that be a 3D construction of a large installation or teaching something to do exactly what you want for example with 'Machine Learning'.

The concept of poetry in my work derives from the inner monologue of the mind. By translating the words into another form, I am forcing the viewer to consider their inner monologue of communication, creating an enhancement of self awareness. It is important that the poetry is distinguished within the work. The translation of the words into another medium is the key concept ensuring that it holds a representation of pure human thought, translated into a system that does not display those emotional attributes.

Through the use of computer systems my work seeks to question what is AI and what is human. By applying human elements i.e. poetry into an automatic, neutral "robotic system", it draws possibilities into who is creating the work, myself or the program and if an artificial system possesses human attributes such as emotion expressed through poetry, does this make the AI seem human? Drawing from elements of visual animation and sound, installation spaces are reminiscent of festival shows, giving the work a quality of a "performance without a performer". It calls into question what is more important to the viewer seeing the product of a performance or the performer themselves. In which case we again question who is the performer, myself or the AI systems I have put into place. I take each poem and translate each word into a new format. Evidence of this can be seen in my digital works. Abstract imagery is generated by an Artificially Intelligent(AI) program based on each letter in the poem, changing the poem each time creates a new image. Another example is through music. Each word within my poems is inputted through another AI program, a tune is generated based on my chosen words. All of my work starts primarily digital, however all elements are eventually pulled together in an installation. This gives meaning and context to not only the imagery involved, but the sound and other multimedia elements, inspired by the initial context of the poem, to create a fully cohesive and immersive environment.

The purpose of work is to increase the understanding of the relationship of emotion behind the written word and how we as humans process these emotions. The use of AI digital experimentation and the written word through poetry increases the relationship of pure emotion in my work. These methods enable me to translate human emotion to the audience. By evoking self awareness, this creates a more conscious understanding of my work, conveying that a communication has taken place. My intention is to understand how this emotion can be "communicated" through different mediums, using AI as a tool to explore whether our emotions can be replicated and potentially expressed in a similar way.