Moving Forward by Nino Basilashvili
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with A FORAS
Category: AI and community mobilization in public spaces

AI in the public space is nowadays extensively used for crowd control and surveillance. We have algorithms that can detect objects and people by computer vision and labeled in categories with parameters decided by humans. So, AI can self-learn to recognize us better, but the meaning of things we still give as humans. What are symbols of freedom and what are symbols of control in the public space? How is our freedom of movement compromised and which role does AI play in this?

AI can recognize a particular person on a surveillance camera because it was fed with a lot of different pictures in different perspectives of millions of people. It can guess the age, height, gender of a specific person, and even her mood. But we, as humans, decide the positive or negative value of each feature collected.

 Technology is not inherently bad or good, it is what we do with it as humans. We are still the ones giving meaning. We decide who is a terrorist, who is an activist and who is a hero. We decide which parameters are important for the AI.
So why don't we decide that we are going to use technology to increase freedom? We can design and create for control, but we can also design and create for movement and peace. Can we give parameters to artificial intelligence so that it can recognize freedom?

Together with A Foras we are going to look at symbols in the public space and train an AI that can recognize them. We as humans reflect, we take a step back and look through the vision of the computer. What do we see and what do we feel? If we become spectators, if only for a second, what do we discover? What are your symbols of freedom?

Nino Basilashvili is part Russian and part Georgian born in the main capital of Georgia: Tbilisi. She has been living in The Netherlands since she was three years old so she likes to think she is also part dutch. Nino Basilashvili makes interactive installation and New Media Art, often with a biofeedback element.

Her interests lie in the merging of the topics technology, nature, connection and spirituality with an approach always involving a feminine standpoint.

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