

CKRBT

The processes of watching and describing the world are no longer the sole domain of people. Machines are watching and interpreting images that are captured by algorithms operating other machines that are watching the world seemingly on our behalf.

Nye Thompson's new solo show CKRBT (pronounced see-ker-bot) explores the emergent machine gaze and the unseen power structures that underpin it. The CKRBT Network, created by the artist, is browsing the exhibition space, and the wider world, it uses machine learning algorithms to describe what it sees. It will scrutinise and comment on any human viewers as well. The Network is the primary audience for this exhibition, though you can watch too if you like.

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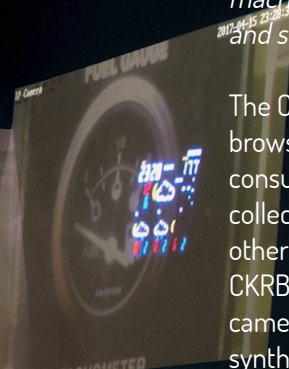
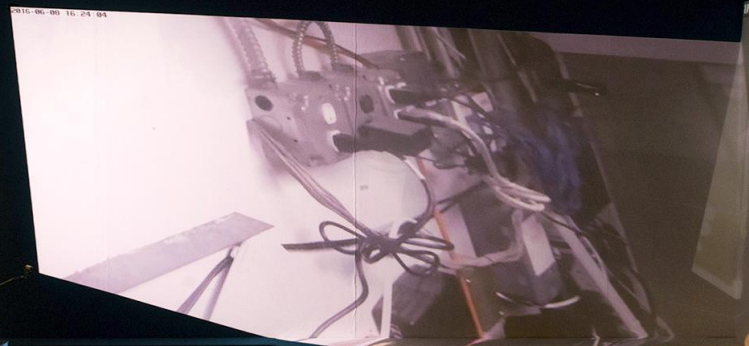
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CKRBT1.0

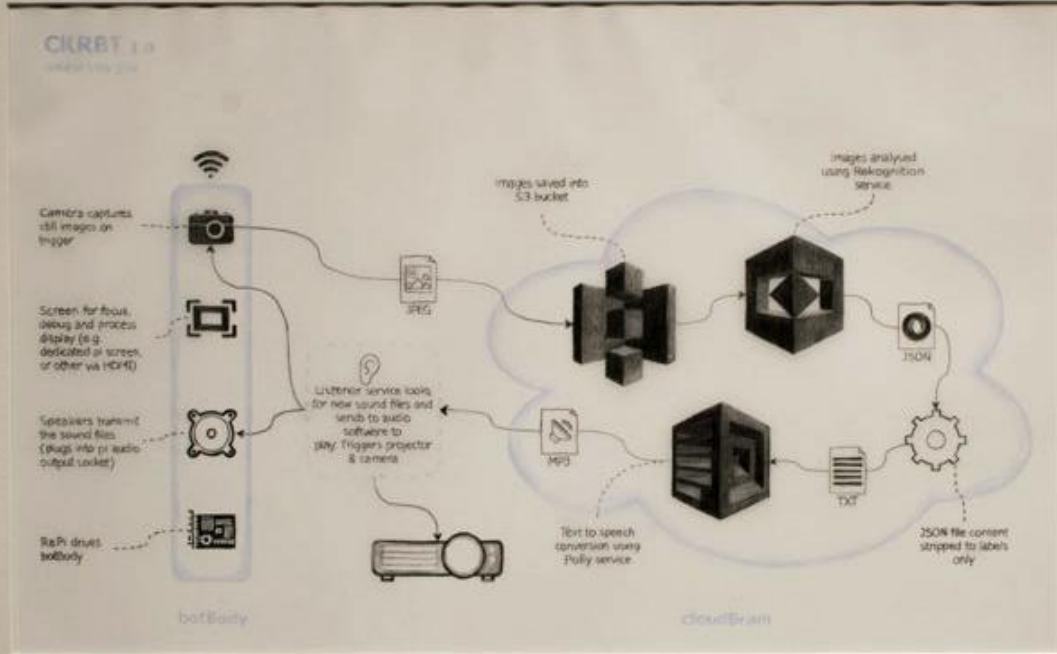
Live machine performance installation with CKRBTs, machine-authored images and software logging.

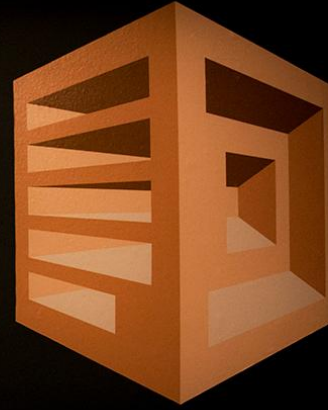
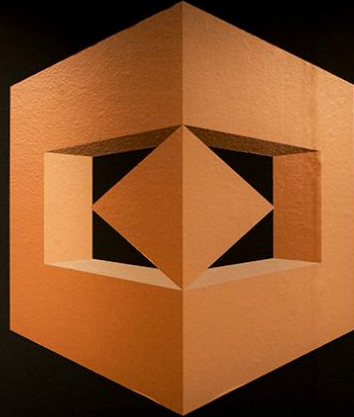
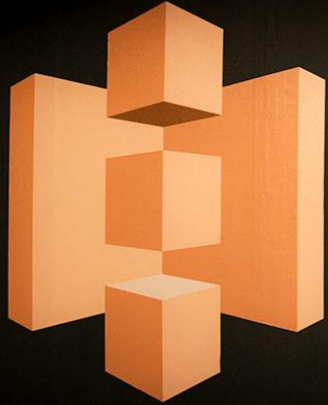
The CKRBT Network is browsing the world, consuming images collected and fed to it by other feeder machines. CKRBTs are 'bots' with camera eyes and synthesised whispering voices. They are analysing what they see, then verbalising their visions aloud to each other. Any thing, or person, entering the bots' field of vision will be similarly analysed, quantified, judged and labelled.

System architecture

Design concept for the CKRBT Network system. CKRBTs (pronounced see-ker-bot) are bots that watch the world, analysing and describing aloud the things they see.

Diagrammatic drawing showing the hardware and software architecture.



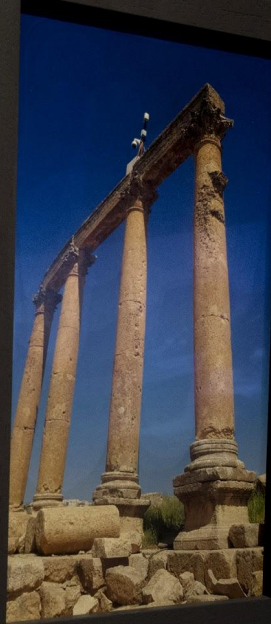


Monument (Part 1)

Modified logos of the commercial software services that power the CKRBTs.

(left) AWS S3: Provides cloud storage infrastructure. (centre) AWS Rekognition: Provides image analysis service for development of software apps that can recognize objects, scenes, and faces in images. (right) AWS Polly: Turns text into lifelike speech

AWS (Amazon Web Services) is a cloud computing platform that provides access to computers and software services through the Internet. It is the biggest cloud services provider in the world.



Monument (Part 2)

Municipal surveillance interventions at the ancient Greco-Roman city of Gerasa/Jerash, in northern Jordan.

Photographs by the artist.

Monument (Part 2)

Municipal surveillance interventions at the ancient Greco-Roman city of Gerasa/Jerash, in northern Jordan.



(in the dark) «I» see the Universe

Machine-as-romantic sees visions of the universe. (Video)

The Seeker is machine entity, a proto-AI, created by the artist. It travels the world virtually over the internet and looks out through compromised security cameras. It then uses image recognition technology to describe what it sees. This video is a tour of locations where The Seeker described seeing "The Universe".

CKRBT

is at Watermans Gallery until 26 May 2019

Watermans

40 High St, Brentford, London TW8 0DS

Open daily 10am-9pm

For interviews and information contact:

Klio Krajewska (curator) nma@watermans.org.uk

Nye Thompson (artist) studio@nyethompson.co.uk

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