Activist Performance through Mediation
Subway: Activist Performance through Mediation - Quitmeyer, Ansari, Nitsche
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yopjU58Y9z8&feature=player_embedded
Background

- The Back Room
  - Ava Ansari
  - Molly Kleimann
- DWIG: Georgia Tech Digital Media - Project Studio
  - Nitsche
  - Quitmeyer
- Anonymous Iranian participants

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Explore situated digital performance and craft
Digital World and Image Group

- Explore situated digital performance and craft

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Paint Pulse

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Ducks Feed People

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Ava Ansari

The Back Room

- Iranian performance artist

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Subway Dance

Gestural dance illegal in Iran

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Challenge

- Allow participants in Iran to engage with Ava’s performance

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Allow participants in Iran to engage with Ava’s performance
Alternative Proposals

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Goals

- Sharing Expression
- Activism
- Subversion
- Human Focus
- Specificity

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1. Decompose Dance
2. Implement in Iran
3. Reconstitute in US

In IRAN, this is Illegal.

But perhaps not this or this or this.

We mark a spot and give simple commands to many women.
WALK TO THE SPOT.
TOUCH YOUR RIGHT HAND TO THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD
LIFT YOUR LEFT FOOT 15cm
RETURN TO NORMAL

These small, subtle movements are captured and stitched together.

Many tiny rebellions add together to create a dance that never was.
Design Core

1. Rotoscope the dance
2. Enumerate Unique Frames
3. Distribute on Custom Android Camera Phone App
4. Pairs capture poses
5. Recollect Iranian frames
6. Reconstitute the new “dance”
Constraints

- Unpredictable Distribution Methods
- Participant Safety
- Balance between structure and freedom
Development

Analog-to-Digital Conversion

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Development

Pose Extraction

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Pose Extraction

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Development

Pose Obfuscation

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Pose Extraction

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Pose Extraction
Development

Pose Obfuscation

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Pose Obfuscation

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Development

Pose Obfuscation

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Development

- Quick Initial Prototype
- Android Camera API
- Android 1.6<
Distribution Design

- Centralized
  - Android Market
- Self-Contained Package
  - Hosted
  - Email
  - Physical Hand-off

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Interaction Design

Iterative Testing

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Freestyle Mode

Multiple Contexts

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Freestyle Mode

Unguided Response

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Launch

Present Concept

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Launch

☐ Demo App

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Distribution Design

- Centralized
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Reception

- Initial Presentation at Eyebeam’s Activist Technology Demo Day 2012

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Results

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkeK8j4ams&feature=player_embedded

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Participants’ Sentiments

- Feeling Strong and Powerful
- Having fun in group activities
- Feeling Free
- Connectedness
- Gaining understanding of what we are capable
Future Developments

- Flipbook
- Dialogue Dance

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Flipbook

Focus on rich details of every frame

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Flipbook

Focus on rich details of every frame

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Flipbook

Focus on rich details of every frame

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Dialogue Dance

Ava choreographs a response dance from freestyle images

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Conclusion

Design for Transformation and Collaboration

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Conclusion

Technology as a subversive mutagen
Conclusion

Gateway between contexts

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Conclusion

Mutually Enhanced Expression

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Questions?

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Future Developments

- Automated App

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Continuous Dance Evolution Installation

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