

Objects of Desire

An investigation into the intimate relationship between human and technology.

Objects of Desire

Hosted by: Pleun van Dijk

Project Information (EN)

With the current exponential speed at which technology develops, the thin line between human and technology will continue to blur and might eventually even fully disappear. This growing integration between what we define as human and non-human will confront us with ethical and fundamental questions about who we are and who we ultimately want to become. Objects of Desire aims to translate some of these current developments into a tangible scenario by starting a collaboration between the designer (representing the human) and a generative algorithm (representing technology). While this collaboration could in theory be continued forever, the project for now focuses on the first three steps of this new method. In step one, the first dataset was curated containing both realistic (representing human genitals) and abstract sex toys. These toys are objects we by nature have a very close physical relationship with and could also be seen as an example of (sexual) objectification. In step two, a pre-trained machine learning (ML) model was used to generate a collection of 1,000 new, non-existing shapes based on the initial dataset. In step three, the generated images were curated and translated back into a three-dimensional physical reality. This resulted in a series of undefined, anthropomorphic, human-like sculptures. In Objects of Desire, human (the designer) and technology (the algorithm) collaborated in the design process of new hybrid forms, a method that exemplifies the ever-existing relationship between human and technology. The project confronts the viewer with a speculative scenario and leaves them to decide whether they perceive the outcome as human, non-human or something that exists in between.

Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
wwwpleunvandijkcom-objects-of-desire-material-futures-photo-at-nahmlos-001_1633882687.jpg		Nahmlos // Bram van Dijk
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The images above are included in the ZIP under /images.