

PROMPTS FOR A VISUAL ESSAY

The work I have developed during this term is quite heterogeneous. The iterations I made do not follow a clear progression and they are rather an attempt to better understand the physicality of greetings. Moreover, some iterations probably led me to a cul de sac, from where it was impossible to progress in a meaningful way. However, I believe that the last two iterations I posted on my blogs are starting to get interesting. They are two video performances where I explain, as if they were a tutorial, respectively how to express dominance while shaking hands and how to greet people in the case handshake is banned. I think that, in addition to interrogate the phenomenon of greetings with new tools and narrative, these two videos intrinsically possess a strong critical position and they raise compelling questions revolving around on the relationship between greetings and social expectation. In particular, the first video brings me back to the starting reflection of handshake and greetings as a masculine attempt to assert control and power.

My visual essay could evolve from this last video as an interactive performance narrated by an automated voice

Bullets:

SHAKE THAT HAND – THE HANDSHAKE DANCE (a possible title?!)

Electronic music playing

{Warm up: repeatedly extend the forearm, then open and close the fist}

- Greetings as an ingrained habitus in our society
- “A set of fixed actions and sometimes words performed regularly, especially as part of a ceremony”, the ritual of greetings
- historical excursus on the handshake (from Babylonia...)
- Greeting as a performative act, performing either for an audience or for a context (videos at the airport?)
- A performance where each element contributes to shape a non-verbal rhetoric which transmits a message (images and videos of my 3D model)
- When it occurs between public figures and politicians the greeting is surrounded by multiple values. It is no longer interpersonal, but it becomes intercommunal
- The handshake for politicians is a crucial calling card
- How to appear dominant when shaking hands

Possibly—

- What if in a post covid19 world the handshake is banned → guide to hands-free greetings