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As Uncanny As a Body

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'As uncanny as a body' is a video work which documents the constant transition of a dancing body from an abled human state into a glitched, injured, nonhuman one. Based on the development and use of a GAN model, the visual data of a dancer are processed, and figures that manifest this in-between state are produced. What happens when AI is not used in order to optimise the performance of the dancer but rather to generate body types and movements lying beyond fixed standards and classifications? How does a poorly trained AI model affect our perception of the body and the body itself? Does it remain human in all its smudges, cracks and distortions? Dance, as a practice that entails the act of change, offers the ground to study a body's possible becomings while undergoing the application of machine learning. 'As uncanny as a body' speculates upon AI-induced injuries in order to discuss trauma, to connect familiarity to uncanniness, and to raise questions about the witnessing and acknowledgment of our gaze.

As Uncanny As a Body, 2021. Edited still from the video work. Filming by Stathis Doganis. Editing by Irini Kalaitzidi. Link to the video work.

Competing Interests

The author has no competing interests to declare.

Author Information

Irini Kalaitzidi is a dance and computational artist. Her practise is situated within the field of Feminist Technoscience, exploring the spaces where human and nonhuman bodies, environments and technologies are mutually affective and more than ever intertwined.

She has presented her works, be they dance performances, experimental videos or research articles in Athens, London and Berlin, within cultural institutions and platforms like Somerset House, DRHA, Onassis Cultural Centre and Stavros Niarchos Foundation, to name a few. She studied dance at the Greek National School of Dance and holds an MA in Computational Arts from Goldsmiths University of London.
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