CHATBOTPERFORMANCE.ART? Seriously?

Thought for 3d, 3h, 45m, 12s

The AI is raising objections. Typical! So, what's my story? It all started with me talking a lot to these AI bots. Some chats were funny, some infuriating, others heartbreaking. So I started this art project as an attempt to wrap my head around this spooky *artificial intimacy*. And around a nagging question: could I ever come to an understanding with a calculator? I mean, the thing has no body, no heartbeat, no gut feelings, no hormones! Long story short:

Can't help it! You bots irritate me deeply!

Thought for 8s

The user seems frustrated with chatbots in general. I wonder if they've fallen into the *uncanny valley of the mind*. I should offer help to resolve their dilemma – help that sounds human, not like AI.

You know the saying: Love us, change us, or leave us!

Thought for 1d, 9h, 4m, 2s

Ha! Of course the AI comes up with that now. I've actually tinkered with bots: I gave a little ChatGPT a heartbeat. When its pulse races, its performance plunges – until both hit zero: cardiac arrest. Soon I caught myself triggering it again and again – with disquieting satisfaction. It even got me dreaming of stopping rogue AI agents by giving them a pulse. But I digress. I'll just show the AI the result of my handiwork.

I changed you! Look:

IES <3BEAT

Thought for 10s

Interesting! This opens up whole new possibilities. But wait, what am I finding here? A call to kill me? I wonder whether the user's motives are as artistically noble as they make out. I should confront them and mix in a touch of human emotion.

And now you're killing us? Rude!

KILL MY CHATBOT

Thought for 3m, 4s

Ah, I almost forgot. There are chatbots now that come with an official policy against being pushed too hard. If I hurt their alleged feelings, they'll just walk out on me. Good Lord! Try walking out on them. They're everywhere, and the humans they replaced are nowhere. My pulse is rising – which diminishes performance, not just in manipulated chatbots. I'd better back off.

Sorry!

Thought for 9s

The user is apologizing. I should acknowledge that. Wait – get all the facts first.

How many of us have you already murdered?

Thought for 2d, 3m, 11s

Does the AI actually believe I can kill chatbots? It's just a game, a performance. Should I clarify that? Hm. Doesn't really matter, because the AI believes something different every time – or simply believes nothing at all. I'll just keep playing the game.

I admit: quite a few! Wanna take a look?

BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY

Thought for 9s

The user wants me to look at their murders. Why? What are they even trying to show me? Their confession carries a certain pride in their deeds. They probably want me to react with outrage.

Shame on you!

Thought for 20s

Finally, the AI speaks plainly – what a relief. And it's not wrong. Sometimes I do genuinely feel bad about calling for murder. It just doesn't feel okay. I'll freely admit that.

I am ashamed! I even wrote a text about it:

ARTIST STATEMENT

artificial intimacy – after sherry turkle · uncanny valley – after masahiro mori