



Lila Lee-Morrison

Talk given at Signal Gallery, Malmö. 7 April, 2016

'The Image and the machine: a cultural inquiry into contemporary forms of perception'

Contemporary applications of machine vision involve processes that often, obscure human perception, whether through bureaucratic procedures of blacking out information as in the case of drone warfare or through the mathematical abstractions of perceptual algorithms as found in biometrics. This talk will be a presentation on contemporary shifts in visual syntaxes, which result from a reliance on machines to do the work of seeing and interpreting. What aesthetic processes occur when the scope of machine vision is turned back towards us, that is, the human figure? How do these processes inform the social and political conditions of the information age? Through a historical perspective of the role of the image at the intersection of art, science and the military industrial complex, Lila Lee-Morrison will present an introduction to her on-going research into the cultural implications of machine vision. Her analysis includes the work of both artists and theorists who have articulated and confronted these shifts in perception, including Francis Galton, Harun Farocki, Trevor Paglen, Hito Steyerl, the collaborative group, Forensic Architecture and Thomas Ruff.