Tangible Tenacity

The right to protest, assemble, and associate is a cornerstone of democracy.

Police have a lot of surveillance tools at their disposal to track, identify, and monitor demonstrators and people exercising their constitutional rights to assemble and protest.

That right is undermined when people legitimately fear retribution from authorities for their participation in the political system and public sphere.

In spite of this, large-scale anti-government protests and collective aggression against leadership and government systems have increased in almost every region of the world since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Tangible Tenacity' captures the resilience of the protestors against the establishment, using AI and translating the expression onto concrete.

A generative image model was trained using a collection of protest images.

Static outputs were taken from the machine and used as a reference to manually create relief textures. And cast as concrete slabs of 10 inches square.

The permanent impressions on concrete not only represent the tenacity of the protestors against the establishment but also raises the debate on the permanence of surveillance data and its use against the protestors.

Shortlist in the Lumen Prize 2022 in the image category.

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