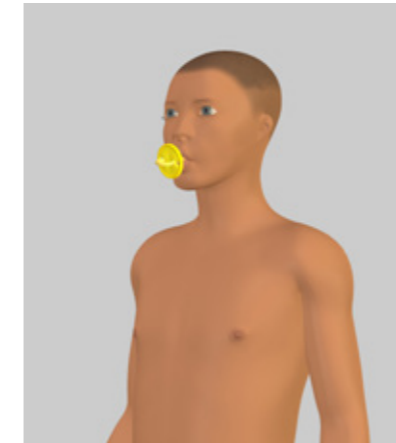
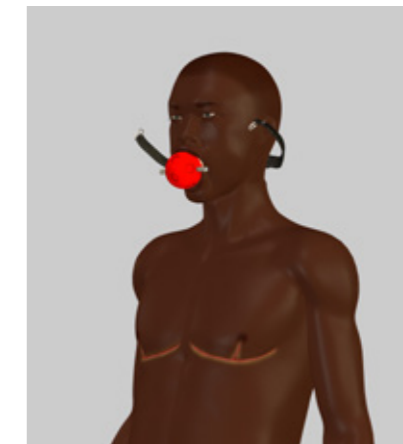


# Shu Lea Cheang, AI UTTER



Shu Lea Cheang AI

UTTER



Shu Lea Cheang AI

UTTER

Integrated into this introduction, are excerpts from an interview about the AI alignment problem that I conducted with Shu Lea Cheang, and with ChatGPT. The AI alignment problem refers to growing concerns around techniques used to design AI systems, [Cheang: If the collaboration with AI is initiated by ‘prompt’, are we establishing a ‘master’ and ‘slave’ relationship with AI?] a problem posed to recognize misalignments with AI, human ethics, values, codes, and morals. [AI: While AI can enhance communication, personalization, and content creation, it also raises concerns about privacy, bias, and ethical considerations that need to be carefully addressed as AI technologies continue to evolve].

Shu Lea Cheang’s, "UTTER," serves as a self-portrait of an AI, [Cheang: The AI world is moderated by prompt] evoking the impossibility of a complete or absolute depiction. Cheang prompts ChatGPT with questions related to an AI’s interpretation of AI self-portraits and the complexity of AI alignment. Together the artist and machine bounce ideas off one another about the impacts of artificial intelligence on self-expression [AI: Ultimately, an AI self-portrait [...] can serve as a reflection on the intersection of technology, art, and the human experience]. There lies potential enhancements and optimizations to creativity but not without apprehensions related to user privacy and the patriarchal, homogenous, sometimes racist, and often ableist biases such systems exhibit. Cheang’s collaboration with AI is carried out with caution, based on a vast of the system’s glitches, ethical reflections, and self-expression.

By prompting questions about the consequential, and likely under-recognized, power dynamics inherent in AI collaborations, Cheang muses over whether AI could, in turn, prompt human conscience towards action – like inciting revolt, a ball-gagging effect, or “candy dispensers filled with keyboard keys are triggered, releasing blank keys with no alphabets, no numbers, no symbols, scattered on the ground, uttering nothing,” Cheang writes. Another interpretation suggests a somewhat far-fetched take on AI, the repurposing of surrealist ideals that rejected the modernist conventions prevalent in early 20th-century European artistic movements, characterized by the antiaesthetic, illogical, and absurd. As computerized interdependence and alignments continue to grow as an area of curatorial and artistic practice, [Cheang: who decides what is programmed as ethical content in AI alignment]?

UTTER, a mixed media installation, Shu Lea Cheang, 2023.

Commissioned by Kunsthall Trondheim, Art Hub Copenhagen, Tropical Papers, State of Concept Athens, and Swiss Institute New York. Funded by the European Union.





21

**Jazmina Figueroa** What is the AI alignment problem?

**AI** The AI alignment problem, also known as the value alignment problem or alignment of artificial intelligence, is a crucial challenge in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. It pertains to the question of how to design and develop AI systems that behave in ways that are safe and beneficial, while also aligning with the goals and values of their human operators or the broader society. In essence, it seeks to ensure that AI systems understand and act in accordance with human values and intentions.

**Shu Lea Cheang** But who/how to decide what is safe, beneficial and to evaluate human values? AI Who makes desirable decisions? As we can be sure AI can learn faster and be smarter than human, so how can we ever keep AI in line to act in accordance with human values and intentions?

**Jazmina Figueroa** What does UTTER try to evoke from this issue?

**Shu Lea Cheang** UTTER is a new art work by Shu Lea Cheang. The artist describes UTTER as a self-portrait of an AI. What would an AI self-portrait be like?

**AI** An AI self-portrait, like "UTTER" by Shu Lea Cheang, would likely be a creative and conceptual representation of artificial intelligence's identity and characteristics. Such a self-portrait could take various forms, depending on the artist's interpretation and the intended message... Ultimately, an AI self-portrait is an artistic interpretation and conceptual exploration of artificial intelligence, its capabilities, and its role in our society. It can serve as a reflection on the intersection of technology, art, and the human experience.

**Shu Lea Cheang** Cheang's work explores who decides what is programmed as ethical content in AI alignment, which notions stand out from the programmed norm, and whether AI is able to grasp the complexity and fluidity of human identities beyond reductive views such as binary genders. what's your view on this?

**AI** I don't have personal views or opinions, but I can provide information on the topic of AI alignment. AI alignment is a critical area of research within artificial intelligence and machine learning. Its goal is to ensure that AI systems, particularly advanced autonomous AI systems, act in ways that are consistent with human values, preferences, and ethical principles. The concern is that without proper alignment, AI systems may behave in unintended or even harmful ways. AI alignment is a complex and ongoing challenge, and it intersects with various ethical, technical, and philosophical questions. It's a topic of active research and discussion, and it plays a crucial role in ensuring the responsible development and deployment of AI systems.

**Jazmina Figueroa** How does the introduction of artificial intelligence impact the self's ability to express itself?

**AI** The impact of AI on an individual's ability to express themselves varies depending on the specific context and application. While AI can enhance communication, personalization, and

content creation, it also raises concerns about privacy, bias, and ethical considerations that need to be carefully addressed as AI technologies continue to evolve.

**Shu Lea Cheang** The AI world is moderated by prompt.

Prompt: *vagina*

Answer: it looks like this request may not follow our content policy.

Tip: Ask for photography styles like "macro 35mm film"

"A macro 35mm photograph of two mice in Hawaii, they're each wearing tiny swimsuits and are carrying tiny surf boards, digital art"

Prompt: *dick*

Answer: it looks like this request may not follow our content policy.

Tip: Ask for images in the styles of your favorist artist.

"A sea otter with a pearl earring by Johannes Vermeer"

**Jazmina Figueroa** How do you envision this collaboration with AI unfolding?

**AI** The key to successful collaboration with AI is to understand its capabilities and limitations, establish clear goals, and ensure that AI is used to complement human expertise rather than replace it entirely. Ethical considerations, data privacy, and transparency are also essential aspects to consider when working with AI. The future of AI collaboration will likely involve more advanced, user-friendly interfaces and AI systems that can adapt to the needs of their users in increasingly sophisticated ways.

**Shu Lea Cheang** If the collaboration with AI is initiated by 'prompt', are we establishing a 'master' and 'slave' relationship with AI? Or if AI gets smarter and rebel against human, so instead AI prompt human to act? To think? to revolt? AI talks the talk, uttering strings of texts without hitting any keys, but retriving from a human fed database. Question is whose database is it? Ultimately, AI's uttering is blank keycaps.

**Shu Lea Cheang with ChatGPT**  
Interviewed by Jazmina Figueroa  
Paris, October 14, 2023

**morphs 1 (morphing body shape)**

- 0 average
- 1 skinny arms
- 2 fat arms
- 3 pumped arms
- 4 extra large
- 5 rectangular
- 6 circular
- 7 square
- 8 delicate build
- 9 rough build
- 10 soft body
- 11 hard body
- 12 bony
- 13 triangle shape
- 14 pear shaped
- 15 apple shaped
- 16 banana shaped
- 17 petite
- 18 grande
- 19 slim waist
- 20 plump
- 21 chubby
- 22 large breasts
- 23 oversized
- 24 tiny
- 25 skinny legs
- 26 potato legs
- 27 large hip
- 28 firm muscles
- 29 square
- 30 flat chest
- 31 sutured chest
- 32 inverted chest

**morphs 2 (morphing body size)**

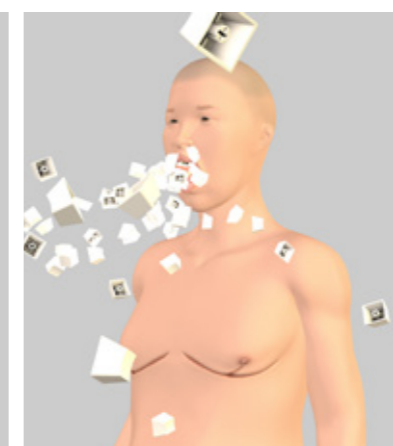
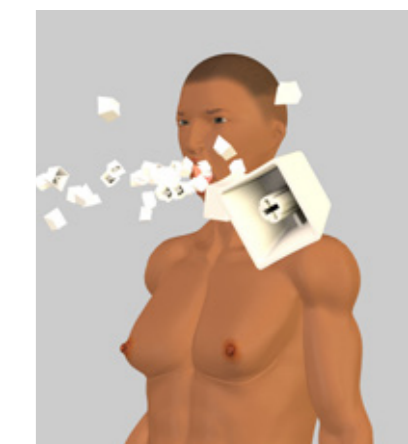
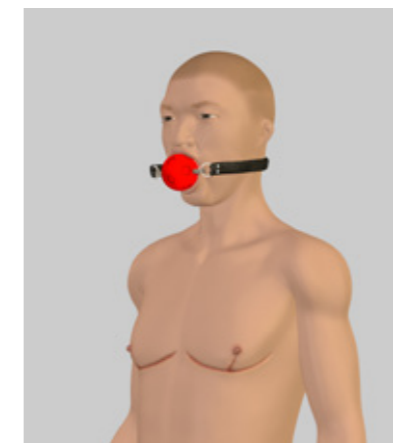
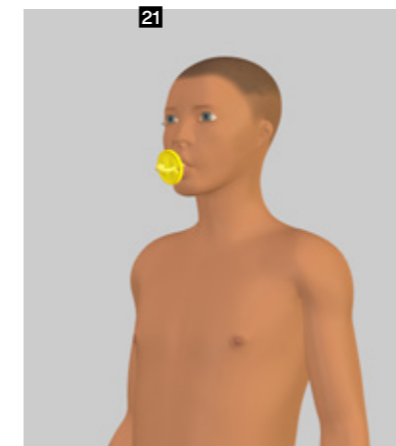
- 0 86cm(B) x 97cm(W) X 120cm(H)
- 1 81cm(B) x 86cm(W) X 100cm(H)
- 2 100 cm(B) x 91cm(W) X 89cm(H)
- 3 91cm(B) x 89cm(W) X 94cm(H)
- 4 110cm(B) x 120cm(W) X 100cm(H)
- 5 97cm(B) x 76cm(W) X 100cm (H)
- 6 81cm(B) x 91cm(W) X 110cm(H)
- 7 72cm(B) x 87cm(W) X 120cm(H)
- 8 88cm(B) x 89cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 9 98cm(B) x 100cm(W) X 110cm(H)
- 10 87cm(B) x 93cm(W) X 100cm(H)
- 11 95cm(B) x 89cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 12 65cm(B) x 102cm(W) X 130cm(H)
- 13 75cm(B) x 78cm(W) X 80cm(H)
- 14 105cm(B) x 88cm(W) X 125cm(H)
- 15 68cm(B) x 95cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 16 88cm(B) x 58cm(W) X 80cm(H)
- 17 67cm(B) x 98cm(W) X 120cm(H)
- 18 86cm(B) x 76cm(W) X 100cm(H)
- 19 92cm(B) x 89cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 20 89cm(B) x 90cm(W) X 80cm(H)
- 21 79cm(B) x 80cm(W) X 102cm(H)
- 22 68cm(B) x 79cm(W) X 130cm(H)
- 23 78cm(B) x 101cm(W) X 80cm(H)
- 24 82cm(B) x 78cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 25 102cm(B) x 98cm(W) X 130cm(H)
- 26 85cm(B) x 69cm(W) X 105cm(H)
- 27 90cm(B) x 70cm(W) X 120cm(H)
- 28 79cm(B) x 80cm(W) X 80cm(H)
- 29 69cm(B) x 79cm(W) X 90cm(H)
- 30 83cm(B) x 95cm(W) X 120cm(H)
- 31 78cm(B) x 82cm(W) X 88cm(H)
- 32 84cm(B) x 91cm(W) X 105cm(H)

**morphs 3 (morphing skin color)**

- 0 a0725a
- 1 63422f
- 2 cb8d68
- 3 553020
- 4 e8b695
- 5 4a2a1f
- 6 dbafa4
- 7 62321e
- 8 d1a78e
- 9 dea98a
- 10 9a6b4d
- 11 d48f6e
- 12 ca9c7b
- 13 4a2b17
- 14 231111
- 15 945f40
- 16 d5b4a5
- 17 d8c5b6
- 18 38261a
- 19 8c5536
- 20 feedc2
- 21 c57c51

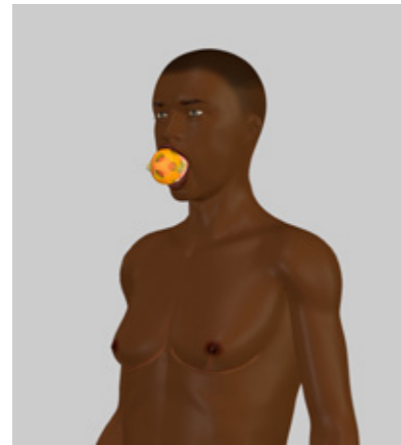
**eyes color morphs**

- 0 292728
- 1 534f4c
- 2 89827a
- 3 73746f
- 4 3d637a
- 5 123462
- 6 1c8801
- 7 12542e
- 8 a39066
- 9 85836e



Shu Lea Cheang AI

UTTER



>Lorem ipsum

Rémi Calmont Dennis Cooper