Data Dating: love in the era of the internet is exposed in Paris

by Lina Rhrissi

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The Charlot gallery brings together a dozen artists around the theme of romance and sexual intimacy through digital interfaces.
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A hundred small heart-shaped red consoles alternately displaying on their screens prole pictures of teenagers cuddling and their most insulting tweets, such as "I hope you get fat and die".

The work "Kill Your Darlings", by Dutch artist Jeroen Van Loon, which highlights the ambivalence between the seductive image that young girls want to give themselves and the aggressiveness allowed by social networks, is the first to attract the eye.

The Charlot gallery, which specializes in contemporary digital and video art, has been exhibiting the "Data Dating" exhibition since May 18th. Through twelve installations by several international artists, the event raises the question of the impact of new technologies on our relationships and our intimacy.

The curator of the exhibition, Italian Valentina Peri, says she has matured this theme after trying out dating apps at the age of 30. "I realized the existence of codes specific to digital in the field of seduction," says anthropologist training. "And I also noticed that many of the artists we work with had mentioned the subject at one time or another."

The "Ashley Madison at Work" facility is part of the Ashley Madison hacking scandal that revealed the data of 75,000 female bots created by the extramarital dating platform to attract 32 million male clients. The group of Swiss artists Mediengruppe Bitnik confronts the viewer with perfect women in

computer-generated images, repeating a series of programmed sentences.

The project "Tinder VR", made viral on the Internet before appearing in physics in the gallery, is the result of a happening during which the artist Tom Galle "swiped" profiles Tinder in the New York subway equipped with a dummy virtual reality headset.

In "Webcam Venus", also available online, Addie Wagenknecht and Pablo Garcia asked for sexcamers to reproduce the poses of classic paintings, comparing the presence of the naked in art and its devaluation online. Many works that question the evolution of our relationship to each other and sex in the age of smartphones, the multiplication of opportunities it offers us through its most dehumanizing.
Jeroen Van Loon - Kill your darlings, 2012

! Mediengruppe Bitnik - Ashley Madison Angels at Work in Paris
You have until July 25th to go to see the exhibition "Data Dating" free at the Charlot Gallery, open from 14h to 18h, at 47 rue Charlot, in the 3rd arrondissement of Paris.

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