

“This is the Future” Transcript – Hito Steyerl

Network: This is Heja.

Heja: My name is Heja.

N: She will only appear later in the video.

H: I will appear later in the video

N: This is a prediction of what she will look like.

H: A neural network is predicting what I will look like.

But it might not necessarily come true.

N: This is the immediate future.

I am a neural network.

This is what I see.

I can see one fraction of a second into the future.

My predictions are based on extreme probability.

In a second something like a fish will wobble around the screen.

See, I told you it would happen.

In the future fish will have no heads and there is water all over.

And over water it kind of looks like this.

In this landscape Heja is looking for something.

And this is how the story will start.

Heja’s Garden

N: This is Heja’s garden.

Heja: When we were in jail we grew plants by crumbling paper and chewing it. We caught flying seeds in the courtyard and got them to germinate on the paper. The flowers grew on love letters and indictment charges for centuries of detention. The guards would come and destroy the plants whenever they find them. So we hid them in the future where the network predicted we could retrieve them soon. But as the future was predicted, the present became unpredictable.

Protestors: Free, social, and national! Germany to Germans, foreigners out!
Out, out, foreigners out!

The Future: A History

Network: Future prediction is an old problem.

People have tried to predict the future for thousands of years.

Stonehenge may have been a tool to predict the seasons.
But humans ask other urgent questions.
Heja: When will I die?
Will it rain tomorrow?
Do they really love me?
Will fascism return?
Why didn't anyone predict Brexit?
How about the Messiah by the way?
N [echoes]: Future prediction is an old problem.
People have tried to predict the future for thousands of years.
Heja: Sorry, the network got stuck again.
It thinks it can predict the future using past data.
It brags on and then just keeps repeating itself.
I once asked: When does science breed magic?
The answer was: "Science will breed magic in 15 kilometers."
The next scene predicts how this video will have been made in an accurate yet cumbersome way.

Bambusa futuris

Heja: This is a neural network.
I trained it to predict the growth of a simple bamboo shot.
But then it didn't stop.
Soon someone realized one could use it to predict traffic, rebellion and suicides.
A random forest is a very popular prediction algorithm.
In this forest science comes to die and is reborn as alchemy.
Prediction takes the place of production.
Your future has been written in the past and it will always catch up with you.
Network: This was my first prediction.
Very soon I was predicting your credit rate and life span.
One day I predicted Heja would commit a crime.
So she went to prison.
Warning: Danger!
Network: Warning: Danger! The future poses a 100% risk for human health.
Statistically, in the future, all humans will die.
Entering the future is a massive health hazard.

Your body might stretch or fall apart.
I told Heja this was going to happen.
Why is she even getting predictions if she doesn't listen?
Heja transited into the future by slipping into the cracks in-between seconds.
Kojey: distance between seconds grow closer, distance between second chances grow – further come back come back to tomorrow and hope for the best tell yourself stress is more than momentary inconvenience
how convenient it was written, scraped on the walls of prisons where messengers can't escape from our future was written on day one and so it begins.
The next scene has a 21% probability of actually taking place..

Power Plants

N: These are the plants that Heja is looking for.

Hordeum murinum.

Whoever has a sick brain, from social media addiction, pulverize this plant and mix it with silicone, thus making a paste.

Sisymbrium altissimum.

Its chemistry attaches to political endorphin receptors in the brain, thus making it unsusceptible for hate-speech and austerity propaganda.

Malva neglecta.

Augments greening power by capturing sunlight and spending it for delight. If you use the extract it will poison autocrats.

Artemisia vulgaris.

This plant is a stunner.

It doesn't do anything; just do the same and you will feel much better.

Rosebay Willow also called bombweed.

This plant produces delicious oxygen and sequesters CO2.

This super power is shared by almost every other plant on the planet.

All these plants literally produce power.

They transform sunlight into energy.

Kojey: Photosynthesis

the harvesting of sunlight to produce energy is the ultimate driver of virtually all life on the surface of our, of your, of us of the life that relies on what we do not see to feed on.

It was without our control. Without ours, without yours, without us

Heja: The network is predicting I am looking for my garden.

I go looking for it in many colorful places that look like the future looked in the 20th Century.

In this future wealth trickles down, power comes from Fukushima and technology rational.

Kojey: Where we cannot

Without you, without me

Without our, without yours, without us

Heja: Warning: whatever the network predicts may not be the case.

Kojey: without

without

with out

with out

with doubt

with doubt

with doubt

we doubt

Heja's Prediction

H: Let me make a prediction.

None of this will ever happen.

I will never enter the future to look for my garden.

Because it is already here.

Because whatever the future will be:

It always starts here and now.

"This is all I can say."

Kojey: Often I forget I remember everything about your, everything today, was extraordinarily mediocre but tomorrow was extraordinary more so than so-so but still somber I think I looked upon an extraordinary seed grow microscopic amounts and had hope I read the instructions it was written scraped on the walls of prisons where messengers can't escape from our future was written on day one and so it begins.