The New Virtual Reality Participants

VR and the Body, July 29, 2016

Niko Koppel

Niko Koppel (born Chicago, 1984) is the Metro photo editor for *The New York Times*. In addition to photographing and reporting, Koppel curates journalistic and narrative content in site-specific installations to engage audiences beyond the platforms they typically associate with photography.

Koppel's Crime Scene project maps recent NYPD evidence photographs from police-involved shootings into a 3-D environment where a viewer can step inside the images through a VR headset and be virtually transported past the yellow tape. In addition to the visual element, the person shot by the police (or a relative, in cases where the shooting was fatal) narrates the complex scene. The project aims to express perspectives that are often overshadowed in official police records and media reports by specifically focusing on the viewer's senses, prioritizing an emotional understanding of the tragically recurring events. The project was produced as part of an Eyebeam residency and was exhibited as an installation in Industry City, Brooklyn, in May 2016.

Daanish Masood

Daanish Masood currently serves in the UN's Department of Political Affairs, focusing on the Middle East. From 2014 to 2015, he served as a research affiliate at MIT's Arts, Culture, and Technology Program. Born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Daanish has lived and worked in New York for 18 years. After 9/11, he worked as a community organizer to assist immigrants

facing discrimination under the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, a system for registering non-citizens on US soil that was initiated in 2002 as part of the War on Terrorism. From 2007 to 2015, Daanish worked at the Alliance of Civilizations, a special UN initiative that pursues experimental approaches in investigating the role of identity in violent conflict.

In 2014, Daanish joined the art-science collective BeAnotherLab to develop conflict-resolution applications for The Machine to Be Another, a system that merges interaction protocols from neuroscience research in embodiment with performance, storytelling, and virtual reality to give users the illusion of seeing themselves in the body of another person from a first-person perspective. Currently, BeAnotherLab is collaborating with various research institutions on behavioral and cognitive science experiments.

VR and the Institution, August 5, 2016

Ziv Schneider

Ziv Schneider (b. 1984) is an Israeli multidisciplinary artist and designer based in New York. Her work involves research and explorations of new technologies like virtual reality and 3-D scanning for nonfiction storytelling, archiving, and preservation. She is a graduate of New York University's ITP masters program and recently completed a fellowship there.

Ziv's project The Museum of Stolen Art is a virtual space for art that has been stolen or looted, lost to greed or conflict. It is a virtual reality experience where one can enjoy artwork that is otherwise hidden. The museum is dedicated to engaging the public in culturally significant items that are in danger and aims to assist in the recovery of stolen art.