

english 245
prof. katie schaaag

april/may 2018

sex doll sanguine

visual essay on femmes and cyborgs

savana stauss

*“the artificial female
body is sexy and sexually
seductive and more
sexually available
somehow not despite its
mechanicity but
precisely because it is
mechanical”*

despina kakoudaki



**women can
look like
robots**

kylie

kylie

"In her Instagrams and Snapchats, she is almost sex-doll sanguine, whether posed in grail-level couture clothes, next to factory-fresh sports cars, or in bed with her boyfriend, the rapper Tyga. Is she ... thrilled, bored, miserable, elated, or just whatevs about her new look, her new fit, her new ride, her new pool?"

*"Please electrify me, power my battery//i
need your energy to store all your
memory"*

poppy

is a youtube celebrity with a tendency toward roboticism. her songs make her sound synthetic

sometimes, poppy will repeat a line over and over until it loses its meaning.

"hey, youtube."

"hey, youtube."

"hey, youtube."

poppy, when interviewed, defaults to silence and looks to her co-artist titanic sinclair for what looks like permission before speaking.



women can look like robots

poppy



“the main trouble with cyborgs is that they are the illegitimate offspring of militarism, patriarchal capitalism, not to mention state socialism. But illegitimate offspring are often exceedingly unfaithful to their origins. Their fathers, after all, are inessential”

donna haraway, a cyborg manifesto



robots can look like women

ava [ex machina]



"Nathan introduces Caleb to his "experiment" and says he wants Caleb to spend the next week performing a live 'Turing Test'. The subject is a fully humanoid artificial intelligence called 'Ava' (Alicia Vikander). She has a face, hands and feet of flesh, but the rest of her body is clearly that of a cyborg / robot / android."

imdb - ex machina (2014)

ava

alicia vikander plays ava, a turing-passing ai. she, and the other fembot kiyoko, are intensely sexualized. sennah yee explores this: "We seldom see Ava or Kyoko enjoying their own existence; their sexuality is simply enjoyed by others, specifically men."

yee later questions ava's lack of self-possession again, and that of all ai created by humans, through the lens of power structures. *"[Ava] is a literal product of patriarchy: men who have the power, means, and money to construct a female robot for their own pleasure. She is also 'exceedingly unfaithful' to her origins in leaving Nathan and Caleb behind. However, is Ava's escape framed as a triumph, or rather as a cautionary tale of what can go wrong when playing God?"*

robots can look like women



<https://www.wired.com/2016/04/the-scarlett-johansson-bot-signals-some-icky-things-about-our-future/>

"we are here and we are miguela"



lilmiquela



robots look like
women

lil miquela



"Ex Machina and the female robot echo both of these approaches, approaches which are ultimately damaging to real women, as the eroticization of the female body is justified through patriarchal 'scientific reasoning,' while simultaneously being portrayed as something alien, threatening, mysterious, and Other." Sennah Yee

lil miquela

is a cgi instagram celebrity. there are countless theories about who she is, what she is, begotten, not made,

she's been interviewed, kind of. she's evasive and mysterious and porcelain.

on april 19, 2018 miquela put out a series of posts detailing her awakening to her own roboticism:

"i am only what they designed me to be."

“These are the
new heroines:
totally hot,
bracingly cold,
powerfully
sovereign — and
posthuman.”

robots sound like women

siri

"Female are you male or female"

tap to edit

I am genderless. Like cacti. And certain species of fish.

Harmony's AI made with technology that has been in development for the past 10 years and we are committed to continue working on it to deliver innovative and amazing updates to our customers.

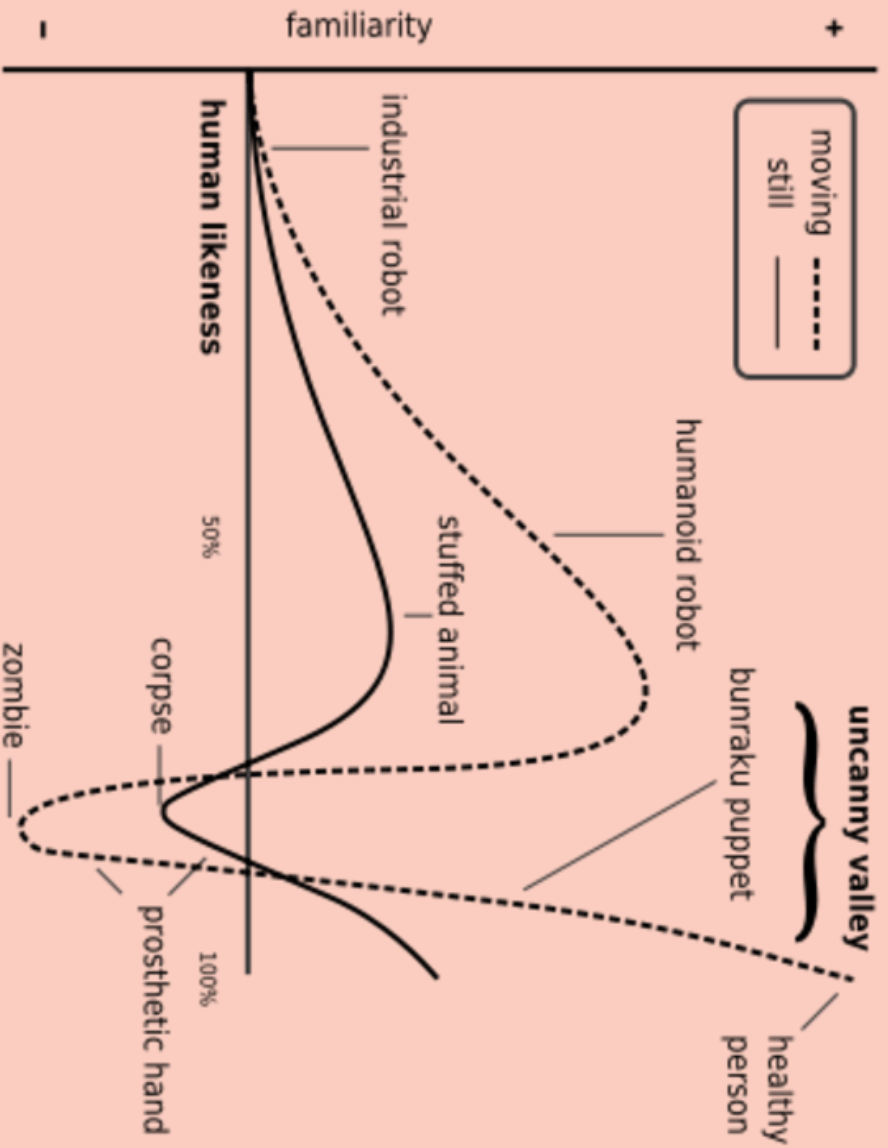
The AI is designed to identify with its users' interests and preferences. It's a highly customizable piece of software so you can modify it on multiple levels. You can choose from thousands of possible combinations of looks, clothes, personalities and voices to make

robots sound like women

harmony

conversations with users, and learns over time. She is a true and loyal companion and you can feel free to talk to her whenever you like. She will always be there to listen to you!

Harmony's App is being constantly developed and updated to improve the contents and depth of the conversations. The more users she has, the better the dialogue will become! Join us and help to contribute to her continuing



potential faces for harmony, from realbotix




robots feel like women

robots **feel** like women

realdoll//realbotix

Definition of DOLL

- 1 : a small-scale figure of a human being used especially as a child's plaything
- 2 a (1) : a pretty but often empty-headed young woman (2) : **WOMAN**
b : **DARLING, SWEETHEART**
c : an attractive person

—dollish  \ˈdä-lish, ˈdò-\ *adjective*

—dollishly *adverb*

—dollishness *noun*

Definition of ROBOT

plural robots

- 1 : a machine that resembles a living creature in being capable of moving independently (as by walking or rolling on wheels) and performing complex actions (such as grasping and moving objects)
- When the next space launch heads for Mars, on board will be dozens of tiny mobile *robots* that will fan out across the Martian landscape, exploring every nook and cranny. —Michael Bowker
- often* : such a machine built to resemble a human being or animal in appearance and behavior
- While science fiction *robots* have been capable of independent thought, emotions, even a little cooking and sewing, scientists are finding that endowing a mechanical being with even the most basic human functions is a monumental challenge. —Greg Freiherr
 - As a sign of the times, paleontologists themselves have taken to ... designing dinosaur *robots* and displays ... —Malcolm W. Browne
- often used before another noun • a *robot dog* • a *robot servant* — compare **ANDROID**, ³**BOT**

cybernetic organism//a hybrid of machine and organism//a
creature of lived social reality//creature of fiction

doll
robot
cyborg

Definition of CYBORG

: a bionic human

a cyborg is designed for more than just meeting the needs of its creator. it's a meld of human and machine. while doll and robot can both be used diminutively, cyborgs are enhanced, superior.

"When gender is applied to a machine, often its stereotypical attributes are emphasized. ...Female AIs are often hyper-sexualized and exist in spaces dominated by men."

why do we like telling women what to do?

delicate, unwilling to fight back, subservient

is it power and control?

if robots can be anything, why are they so often women?

"both a toy and a servant"

"both a toy and a servant"

"both a toy and a servant"

"both a toy and a servant"

"both a toy and a servant"