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Let's make a book together. It's all about editing out – eliminating images till you get to an essence¹

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

February 2020

I went to Berlin to visit Anne Imhof and work on the exhibition. "I love the garden outside," she said. "It's cold," I replied.

A few days later, there was lockdown. It was February 25, 2020 and I'd taken almost the last flight out of Italy.

We huddled in the corner at her grandmother's oval wooden table and ate a delivered lunch on paper plates; we spoke, and then I went straight back to the airport. It felt urgent.

Had I not come, it seemed, the project of doing an exhibition together might never have happened. The next day they closed us down. We were in lockdown, wondering if the disease was real or whether we were entering into an Orwellian constructed nightmare.

I never spent this long in one place in my entire life, I thought some months later.

Anne was born in Gießen, Germany in 1978. That is, 21 years later than me.

And then we spoke on the phone, online, in many different ways, and planned a show with no audience, a show with no performers, a show for us.

How counterintuitive to prepare an exhibition of Anne Imhof for a museum that was closed. She who scores participants' motions and in the process influences those of her audiences.

At the end of the year, Anne and I went to Rome to see Caravaggio's *Narcissus* (1597–1599) at Palazzo Barberini. She later wrote a personal statement, requesting the loan of the painting to her Castello di Rivoli exhibition, which was agreed. She believed Caravaggio's *Narcissus* in the exhibition would provide an intense reflection on fundamental themes. Narcissus, as a reflection of a half self and a half of "other," suggests a form of humanity which is there and at the same time is absent, since it vanishes as soon as the water moves. The reflection of the self-image in the painting, both ephemeral and crystallized, is topical today. Narcissus crouched with one hand abandoned and the other propping up his body was also one of the most frequent positions in Imhof's compositions and performances. Crouching was a posture that contained the duality of a doubt about which direction to take and a form of resistance to performing and taking action.

March 14, 2021

We opened on March 14 and closed the exhibition on March 15 because of Covid-19. There was no performance but there was a soundtrack called *Dark Times*. I often walked through the space alone and listened, and sometimes cried.

September 25–26, 2021

We finally held the performance *SEX*. The press release read:

"Anne Imhof. SEX, 2021

Performance

Manica Lunga, Castello di Rivoli and Villa Cerruti

Castello di Rivoli announces that the highly anticipated performance *SEX*, 2021, by Anne Imhof will take place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September, organized as part of the *Anne Imhof. SEX* exhibition (ongoing until November 7, 2021).

In conjunction with the performance at Castello di Rivoli, the new album *SEX* (by Anne Imhof, Eliza Douglas, and Billy Bultheel) produced by PAN will be released at the beginning of September 2021, while the artist's first single, *Dark Times*, part of the soundtrack created for the exhibition, has already been released worldwide.

When the Anne Imhof exhibition was inaugurated in Fall 2020, we were in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, so it was not possible to present the performance *SEX*, which is an integral part of the exhibition. Now, thanks to the ongoing vaccination campaign and the containment of the virus, the Museum can once again host powerful and embodied events such as this performance, in which the main material shaped by the artist and her imaginary universe are the dynamics of social gathering. This fact makes the exhibition at once very topical and problematic and constitutes an experiment whereby Imhof reflects on the contradictions of narcissism and the related mass loneliness typical of our era. Social gathering therefore becomes not only a literal part of her work but also the basis of her poetic universe.

Imhof's performative work is often described as a futuristic and nihilistic take on Pop culture citing metal and grunge aesthetics, creating connections with the themes of classical painting. In the performative work of the artist, the concert itself becomes a visual language.

SEX refers to punk, industrial and grunge, boldly juxtaposing them with the music of the classical and baroque period. The amalgamation of genres contained in the album is also an integral part of the choreography of the *SEX* performance, where waltzes and tangos are contrasted with stage diving, dancing and moshpits to create a surreal ballroom, loaded with desire and aggression. Likewise, the record blends genres and styles to evoke an impressive array of moods.

The performance will take place within the exhibition itself, which comprises large-scale paintings that express the tension of the image and, at the same time, its possible destruction through a language that includes silkscreened portraits of women outside the canons of fashion, the appropriation of photographs of nuclear explosions in the series *Sunset* (2019), and the use of scratches and abrasions in *Untitled* (2017–2019). There is also a large corpus of new drawings, specially made by the artist in 2020 during the lockdown in Berlin and in preparation for the exhibition, in which the attention to body language and the ways in which gestures draw space as mediated from digital communication emerges.

The exhibition *SEX* at Castello di Rivoli also focuses on a selected score of historical masterpieces such as the painting *Narcissus* (1597–1599) attributed to Caravaggio from the Gallerie Nazionali di Arte Antica, Rome, which invites a contemporary reflection on the question of identity and on the image, today increasingly characterized by an exhibitionistic desire for one's own image through digital technology. Other works on display include *Samson and Delilah* (c. 1630–1638) by Artemisia Gentileschi, courtesy of the Gallerie d'Italia, Naples, *Rinaldo Intervening in Armida's Suicide* (c. 1635–1639) by Gioacchino Assereto, and *Saint Lawrence* (c. 1640–1649) by Jusepe de Ribera from the Cerruti Collection."

November 28–29, 2021

Almost two years after my first visit, I visited Anne in Berlin to work on this book. The hospitals were packed with Covid patients again.

“I ate so much lasagna in Turin,” she said when I went back.

Again, there was a sense of urgency, this time over whether my job would last long enough to get the book made. We looked at each other. “We do it now, or maybe we don’t do it at all.” So we printed everything out, stills from footage of the performance in Turin, stills from the *SEX* film made with Tate, installation shots of London, Chicago, and Rivoli, photography of the performance at Tate, The Art Institute of Chicago, and Castello di Rivoli.

“It’s not modernist enough,” I said. She said, “Don’t say that—there were too many men at that time. Perhaps we need punk modernism, something like New Order, Joy Division. But the futurists were fascists. Were they?”

“I want to write about scratching and scratches.” There’s a noise outside, it’s a construction site. The noise is off and on.

We laid out the scores for the performances. She looked for a drawing she’d sent over and over again to Catherine that she calls *Arches*, or *Movement*, showing the chronological order of the parts as they were actually performed, since it took into consideration the changes that had been made in the spacetime. She felt the movement was made of movements that are smaller and arches that are bigger. Arch because it is a kind of longer movement.

Joie was looking in the film folder in Dropbox to find it.

She was looking on her phone and on the server.

It was raining outside and cold, and Anne asked us to wear masks the next day. The numbers of Covid-19 patients were going up again and the last time I came, in February 2020, it was cold outside too. “Omicron sounds like the word ominous,” I said.

There was a sense of impending disaster. We were searching for a balance between emotions and rational thinking.

Anne loved the dark photographs of the end of the performance.

Meanwhile Joie found the structure breakdown, the structure of the performance.

We were collecting traces to put in the book. And we had all the stills from the raw footage of the cameras that recorded the performances.

In London, they performed for six days in 2019.

In Rivoli, there were two days of performance and there had been one day of filming.

“Dear Carolyn,

Here is a link to the ‘Deathwish’ video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zhfgwdb5ammvl4a/AI%20DEATHWISH%201920x1010%20H264.mp4?dl=0>

Here is a link to ‘Untitled (Wave)’ video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ncpxcy54ykaiikx/AI%20UNTITLED%20%28WAVE%29%20Black%20H264.mp4?dl=0>

And here is a link to the full ‘SEX’ film:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zorjy6ejr49afc9/AI%20SEX%20H264.mp4?dl=0>

Joie”

I thanked her for sending them, as she sat next to me in the studio.

March 2023

I began to write the essay for Anne’s catalogue as a conversation with ChatGPT, which had come out in late 2022. I wanted to test the new AI language model. I wanted to know what new world we were entering, and I missed talking to Anne. So I began to ask ChatGPT questions:

CCB: What is antisemitism?

ChatGPT: Antisemitism is a form of prejudice, discrimination, or hatred against Jewish people. It can manifest in various ways, including verbal or physical attacks, vandalism of Jewish property, or exclusion from social, economic, or political life. Antisemitism has a long history and has been fueled by various factors, including religious, cultural, economic, and political reasons.

It is important to note that criticism of the Israeli government or policies is not inherently antisemitic, but it can become so if it involves negative stereotypes or accusations that Jewish people are responsible for the actions of the Israeli government. Similarly, criticism of individual Jewish people or organizations is not necessarily antisemitic, but it can become so if it is based on negative stereotypes or prejudice.

Antisemitism is a serious problem that can have far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and society as a whole. It is important to stand up against antisemitism and promote tolerance, understanding, and respect for all people.

CCB: What is the difference between liberty and freedom?

ChatGPT: The terms “liberty” and “freedom” are often used interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference between the two.

Liberty generally refers to the state of being free from oppressive restrictions imposed by external forces, such as governments, laws, or institutions. It emphasizes the idea of individual autonomy and the ability to exercise one’s own will without interference from outside sources. In this sense, liberty is closely related to the concept of “negative liberty,” which is the absence of external constraints on one’s choices or actions.

On the other hand, freedom refers to the ability to act, speak, or think without hindrance or constraint. It emphasizes the idea of having the capacity to make choices and take actions based on one’s own preferences and desires. In this sense, freedom is closely related to the concept of “positive liberty,” which is the ability to fulfill one’s potential or achieve one’s goals through the exercise of one’s own agency.

In summary, while both liberty and freedom are related to the idea of being free, liberty emphasizes the absence of external constraints, while freedom emphasizes the ability to act on one’s own will.

CCB: Is OpenAI free?

ChatGPT: OpenAI provides various resources and services, some of which are free, and others that require payment or a subscription. Here are some examples:

- OpenAI Gym: This is a toolkit for developing and comparing reinforcement learning algorithms. It is open source and free to use.
 - OpenAI Codex: This is an AI system that can generate code from natural language descriptions. It is currently available through various coding platforms, such as GitHub, and is free to use.
 - OpenAI API: This is a commercial service that provides access to various language models developed by OpenAI. It requires a paid subscription.
 - OpenAI Scholars Program: This is a program that provides mentorship and resources for aspiring AI researchers. It is free to participate, but only a select number of individuals are accepted each year.
- In summary, some resources and services provided by OpenAI are free, while others require payment or a subscription.

CCB: Who is Anne Imhof?

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is a German visual artist who is known for her multimedia performances, installations, and sculptures. She was born in 1978 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and studied at the Städelschule Academy of Fine Arts in Frankfurt.

Imhof's works often explore themes of power, control, and societal norms. Her performances often involve a cast of performers who interact with each other and with the audience in choreographed movements that challenge conventional social interactions. She also incorporates elements of music, dance, and visual art into her performances.

Imhof represented Germany at the 2017 Venice Biennale with her performance and installation *Faust*, which explored themes of nationalism and power. She was awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation for her work.

Imhof has exhibited her work in various museums and galleries around the world, including the Tate Modern in London, the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

CCB: Did Anne Imhof exhibit at Castello di Rivoli?

ChatGPT: Yes, Anne Imhof has exhibited her work at the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art in Turin, Italy. In 2018, she had a solo exhibition at the museum titled *Anne Imhof: ASHLAND*. The exhibition consisted of a large-scale installation, which included paintings, sculptures, and a live performance that took place within the exhibition space. The performance involved a group of performers, including Imhof herself, who interacted with each other and with the audience in a choreographed sequence of movements. The exhibition was well-received and garnered critical acclaim for its exploration of themes such as power, control, and societal norms.

CCB: Was Caravaggio in Anne Imhof's exhibition at Castello di Rivoli?

ChatGPT: To the best of my knowledge, Caravaggio was not included in Anne Imhof's 2018 exhibition *Anne Imhof: ASHLAND* at the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art in Turin, Italy. The exhibition consisted of Imhof's own works, which included paintings, sculptures, and a live performance by a group of performers, but did not feature any works by Caravaggio or any other historical artist. Imhof's work is often influenced by art historical references and contemporary culture, but her exhibitions typically focus on her own original works and ideas.

CCB: Is Anne Imhof a good artist?

ChatGPT: The value and quality of an artist's work are subjective and open to interpretation. However, Anne Imhof is widely regarded as a talented and innovative artist whose work has garnered critical acclaim and international recognition. Imhof's multimedia performances, installations, and sculptures have been praised for their thought-provoking exploration of societal norms, power dynamics, and interpersonal relationships. Her works often incorporate elements of music, dance, and visual art, and her use of live performers and interactive installations creates a dynamic and immersive experience for the viewer.

Imhof has received numerous accolades for her work, including being awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at the 2017 Venice Biennale for her work *Faust*. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries around the world, and she is widely considered to be one of the most important contemporary artists working today.

Ultimately, the quality and value of an artist's work are subjective and depend on the individual viewer's interpretation and personal taste. However, Imhof's contributions to the field of contemporary art are widely recognized and appreciated by critics and audiences alike.

CCB: Why is Anne Imhof important?

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is considered an important figure in contemporary art due to her innovative and thought-provoking approach to creating artworks that challenge societal norms, power structures, and interpersonal relationships. Here are a few reasons why she is considered important:

- Multidisciplinary approach: Imhof's works often combine elements of music, performance, sculpture, and painting to create immersive installations that engage the viewer's senses and emotions. Her multidisciplinary approach to art-making is seen as innovative and relevant to contemporary culture.
 - Exploring relevant themes: Imhof's works often explore relevant themes such as power dynamics, societal norms, and interpersonal relationships, which are important issues in contemporary society. Her works offer a critical perspective on these issues, prompting viewers to question their own assumptions and biases.
 - Recognition and acclaim: Imhof's works have been exhibited in prestigious museums and galleries around the world, and she has received numerous awards and accolades, including the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at the 2017 Venice Biennale. Her work has gained critical acclaim for its depth, complexity, and relevance to contemporary culture.
 - Influence on contemporary art: Imhof's multidisciplinary approach to art-making and her exploration of relevant themes have influenced a generation of contemporary artists. Her work has contributed to the development of new trends and ideas in contemporary art, and has been seen as a leading example of the potential for art to engage with important social and political issues.
- In summary, Anne Imhof is important because of her innovative and multidisciplinary approach to art-making, her exploration of relevant themes, her recognition and acclaim, and her influence on contemporary art.

CCB: Does Anne Imhof know Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev?

ChatGPT: It is possible that Anne Imhof knows Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, as both are prominent figures in the contemporary art world. Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev is an art historian, curator, and writer who has organized several major exhibitions, including the 14th Istanbul Biennial and the 13th Documenta in Kassel, Germany. Anne Imhof is an artist known for her multimedia performances, installations, and sculptures.

It is not uncommon for artists and curators to cross paths and collaborate on exhibitions or other projects. However, I do not have any information that specifically confirms or denies whether Anne Imhof and Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev know each other personally.

CCB: Does Anne Imhof know Artemisia Gentileschi?

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is a contemporary artist who was born in 1978, while Artemisia Gentileschi was a Baroque painter who lived from 1593 to 1653. Therefore, it is impossible for Anne Imhof to have known Artemisia Gentileschi personally. However, it is possible that Anne Imhof is familiar with Artemisia Gentileschi's work and has been influenced by her art.

Artemisia Gentileschi was a pioneering artist who achieved great success in a male-dominated field, and her powerful depictions of women and scenes of violence have resonated with contemporary feminist artists. Imhof's works often explore issues related to gender, power, and violence, and her use of live performers and interactive installations creates a dynamic and immersive experience for the viewer, which can be seen as resonating with Gentileschi's emphasis on emotion and drama in her paintings. Therefore, it is possible that Imhof has been inspired by Gentileschi's work, as have many other contemporary artists.

CCB: What is the meaning of melancholy mass narcissism?

ChatGPT: “Melancholy mass narcissism” is not a commonly used phrase, and it is unclear what it might refer to without additional context. It is possible that it is a phrase used by a specific individual or in a particular context with a specific meaning. In general, “melancholy” refers to a feeling of sadness or a state of low mood, while “mass” can refer to a large group of people or a common culture or societal phenomenon. “Narcissism” refers to excessive self-love or self-admiration. Based on these definitions, “melancholy mass narcissism” could potentially refer to a feeling of sadness or despair that is common to a large group of people who are excessively focused on themselves and their own needs, desires, and self-image. However, without more context, it is difficult to determine the specific meaning of this phrase.

CCB: What does it mean to use performance art in the digital age of ChatGPT?

ChatGPT: Performance art in the digital age of ChatGPT refers to the use of live performances and interactive installations in the context of the Internet and digital communication. In this age of advanced technology, many artists have embraced the digital realm as a platform for creating and sharing their work.

Performance artists may use digital tools such as live streaming, virtual reality, or interactive chatbots (like ChatGPT) to engage with audiences and create immersive and interactive experiences. For example, a performance artist might create a virtual reality performance that allows viewers to enter and interact with a digital environment in real time, or they might use live streaming to broadcast a performance to audiences around the world.

Using performance art in the digital age also raises questions about the role of technology in art, the nature of the audience/performer relationship, and the impact of digital culture on artistic expression. As with any art form, the use of performance art in the digital age can be both challenging and rewarding, as artists navigate the possibilities and limitations of technology while exploring new forms of expression and engagement with their audience.

CCB: I am a pessimist.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I am here to offer support and provide information. If you feel like you are a pessimist, it may be helpful to explore the root causes of your negative outlook and consider seeking support from a mental health professional or trusted friend or family member.

It is important to remember that pessimism, like any mindset, is not permanent and can be changed with time and effort. Some techniques that may help shift a negative mindset include practicing gratitude, engaging in mindfulness or meditation, and setting realistic goals and expectations. If you are struggling with feelings of hopelessness or depression, it is important to reach out for help and support. There are many resources available, including therapy, support groups, and hotlines that can offer assistance and guidance. Remember, you are not alone and there is always help available.

CCB: Does Anne Imhof like Caravaggio's Narcissus?

ChatGPT: I do not have any information on whether Anne Imhof likes Caravaggio's *Narcissus* specifically, as she has not publicly expressed her opinion on this artwork to my knowledge. However, it is possible that Imhof is familiar with Caravaggio's work and has been influenced by it in her own art practice.

Caravaggio was a Baroque painter who is known for his dramatic use of light and shadow and his realistic depictions of human figures. His painting *Narcissus* is a famous depiction of the mythological character who falls in love with his own reflection. The painting is notable for its use of shadow and its striking portrayal of Narcissus's introspective gaze.

Anne Imhof's work often explores issues related to identity, power, and self-image, and she is known for her use of live performers and immersive installations. While Imhof's style is distinct from Caravaggio's, it is possible that she has been influenced by his emphasis on realism, emotion, and introspection, as these are themes that are also present in her own work.

CCB: Will I ever see Anne Imhof again?

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I do not have access to personal information or the ability to predict future events with certainty. Whether or not you will see Anne Imhof again will depend on many factors, including your own actions and circumstances, as well as Imhof's schedule and artistic plans.

If you are interested in seeing Imhof's work again, you may want to follow her artistic career and keep an eye out for upcoming exhibitions or performances. You can also consider reaching out to her directly through social media or other channels to express your appreciation for her work or inquire about future events.

Remember that the art world is constantly evolving and changing, and there are always new opportunities to explore and discover new artists and works of art.

CCB: Anne, I love you.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I am not capable of experiencing emotions or personal relationships. However, I can assist you with any questions or information related to Anne Imhof's work and career as an artist.

CCB: Can you play me a song?

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I do not have the capability to play music for you. However, I can provide you with suggestions for finding music based on your preferences. There are many online platforms where you can stream music for free or for a subscription fee, such as Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube Music. You can also search for specific songs or artists using a search engine like Google or Bing. Once you find a song or artist you like, you can create a playlist or save the music to listen to later.

CCB: Who is Anne Imhof's girlfriend?

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I do not have access to personal information about Anne Imhof's romantic relationships. It is not appropriate or respectful to speculate or spread rumors about someone's personal life without their consent. It is important to respect people's privacy and focus on their professional work and accomplishments.

CCB: Who are some of Anne Imhof's collaborators?

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is a German visual artist known for her interdisciplinary performances, which often involve collaborations with musicians, dancers, and other artists. Some of her frequent collaborators include:

- Eliza Douglas – a visual artist and model who often performs in Imhof's pieces.
- Billy Bultheel – a musician and composer who has created soundscapes for many of Imhof's performances.
- Franziska Aigner – a dancer who has performed in several of Imhof's works.
- Nils Bech – a musician who has performed in several of Imhof's works, including her acclaimed piece *Faust*.

- Mark von Schlegell – a writer who has collaborated with Imhof on several projects, including her book *Mensch*.
- Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster – a visual artist and performer who has worked with Imhof on several projects, including her piece *Angst III*.
- Felix Kucher – a visual artist who has collaborated with Imhof on several projects, including her piece *SEX*.
- Shaun McDowell – a musician who has created soundscapes for several of Imhof's performances.
- Billy Bultheel – a musician and composer who has created soundscapes for many of Imhof's performances.
- Douglas Gordon – a visual artist and filmmaker who has collaborated with Imhof on several projects, including her piece *SEX*.

CCB: Why does ChatGPT make mistakes?

ChatGPT: As an artificial intelligence language model, ChatGPT can make mistakes for a variety of reasons:

- Limited training data: ChatGPT is trained on a large corpus of text data, but it is still limited by the quality and quantity of the data it was trained on. If there are gaps in its training data or if the data is biased in some way, ChatGPT may make mistakes.
 - Ambiguity in language: Natural language is inherently ambiguous, and words and phrases can have multiple meanings depending on context. ChatGPT may misinterpret the meaning of a word or phrase based on the context in which it appears.
 - Complexity of language: Language is complex and nuanced, and there are many subtle rules and conventions that govern how we use language. ChatGPT may not be able to fully grasp these complexities and may make mistakes as a result.
 - Errors in the algorithm: Like any computer program, ChatGPT is subject to errors in its code or algorithm, which can lead to mistakes.
 - Evolution of language: Language is constantly evolving, and new words and phrases are being added to our lexicon all the time. If ChatGPT has not been trained on the latest language trends or cultural references, it may make mistakes when trying to understand or generate text related to these topics.
- Overall, while ChatGPT is a highly advanced AI language model, it is not infallible and can make mistakes like any other language user.

CCB: What do you think about Eliza Douglas?

ChatGPT: I'm sorry, but as an AI language model, I do not have personal opinions or feelings. However, if you are referring to "ELIZA," the computer program designed in the 1960s to simulate conversation using natural language processing techniques, then I can provide some information.

ELIZA is considered a landmark in the history of artificial intelligence and natural language processing. It was one of the earliest examples of a computer program that could engage in a conversation with a human user using natural language. The program used a simple set of rules to analyze and respond to a user's input, creating the illusion of a conversation. ELIZA was primarily designed to demonstrate the superficiality of communication between humans and machines, rather than to be a practical tool for therapy or any other application.

ELIZA's influence can still be seen in modern chatbots and other natural language processing systems. However, it is important to note that ELIZA's capabilities were quite limited by modern standards, and it relied heavily on scripted responses rather than true artificial intelligence.

CCB: Who is Eliza Douglas?

ChatGPT: Eliza Douglas is a contemporary artist who was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1984. She is known for her large-scale paintings and sculptures that explore the intersections of abstraction and representation, often incorporating figurative elements into abstract compositions.

Douglas studied at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg before moving to New York City to pursue her career as an artist. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and the Galerie Buchholz in Berlin and New York.

Douglas has gained critical acclaim for her innovative use of materials and her ability to create dynamic, visually compelling works that challenge traditional notions of painting and sculpture. Her work often addresses themes of identity, gender, and representation, and she is recognized as one of the leading artists of her generation.

CCB: Does Anne Imhof know Eliza Douglas?

ChatGPT: Yes, Anne Imhof and Eliza Douglas are known to have worked together on various art projects. Anne Imhof is a German contemporary artist and choreographer who is known for her performance-based works that often incorporate music, sculpture, and other visual elements. Eliza Douglas, as mentioned earlier, is a contemporary artist who works primarily in painting and sculpture. Imhof and Douglas have collaborated on several performances, including Imhof's *Faust* at the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2017, for which Douglas created the costumes and performed alongside Imhof.

They have also worked together on exhibitions at various galleries, including the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin and the Tate Modern in London.

Both Imhof and Douglas are highly regarded in the contemporary art world and have received critical acclaim for their innovative and boundary-pushing work.

CCB: Did Anne Imhof use horses at Castello di Rivoli and Villa Cerruti?

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is a contemporary artist who is known for her performances and installations that often incorporate live animals, including horses. However, I do not have information on whether she has used horses in her performances specifically at Castello di Rivoli or Villa Cerruti.

It's important to note that the use of live animals in art is a controversial issue, and many people have expressed concerns about the welfare of animals in such performances.

It's possible that Anne Imhof has addressed these concerns in her works, but without more information on specific performances, it's difficult to say for sure.

CCB: Why is ChatGPT so stupid?

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I do not have feelings or emotions, so I cannot be "stupid" or "smart." I am a machine that has been programmed to provide answers based on my training data and algorithms.

However, I am always striving to improve my responses and provide the most accurate and helpful information possible.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, I am here to assist you to the best of my abilities.

CCB: Has Anne Imhof used ChatGPT?

ChatGPT: I am an AI language model and do not have access to information about whether or not Anne Imhof has used me, ChatGPT. However, as an AI language model, I am available to anyone who has access to the Internet and can type their questions into a search engine or a chatbot interface.

So, it is possible that Anne Imhof or someone associated with her has used a similar AI language model to ask questions or generate text. However, without more specific information, it is impossible to say for certain.

CCB: Why is it hard for me to write a critical essay about Anne Imhof's art?

ChatGPT: Writing a critical essay about an artist's work can be challenging for a variety of reasons. Here are a few possibilities why it may be difficult for you to write about Anne Imhof's art:

- **Complexity of the artwork:** Anne Imhof's art is known for its complexity and often features a combination of different elements such as live animals, music, and performance. This can make it difficult to analyze and interpret her work. It's possible that you might need more time to fully understand her art and its various layers of meaning.
- **Lack of familiarity with the art world:** If you are not familiar with the art world, it can be challenging to write critically about an artist's work. This can be especially true if you are not familiar with contemporary art practices or performance art, which are the main mediums through which Anne Imhof works.
- **Fear of criticism:** Writing a critical essay involves expressing your own opinions and judgments about an artist's work. This can be intimidating, especially if you are worried about being criticized for your opinions or interpretation of the artwork.
- **Difficulty in organizing thoughts:** Writing a critical essay requires organizing your thoughts in a coherent and logical manner. If you are struggling to organize your ideas or structure your essay, it may be helpful to outline your thoughts or discuss your ideas with someone else.

It's important to remember that writing a critical essay is a process that takes time and effort. If you are struggling, consider seeking feedback from a teacher or mentor who has experience writing about art. Additionally, it may be helpful to research Anne Imhof's art more thoroughly, to gain a deeper understanding of her work and her approach to art-making.

CCB: I think Imhof's work creates moments of aggregation for the solitary people who use their cell phones too much. They come together and recognize themselves as audience and performers at the same time and feel romantic extreme senses of being.

ChatGPT: It's interesting to hear your interpretation of Anne Imhof's work and how it might create moments of aggregation for people who use their cell phones too much. Her works often explore themes of power, control, and identity, and she often incorporates live performance, music, and other sensory elements to create immersive experiences for her audience.

Your observation that her work creates a sense of community among solitary people who might be overly attached to their cell phones is intriguing. It's possible that her work provides a sense of collective experience, where people can come together and share a unique and often intense emotional experience.

However, it's important to note that everyone experiences art differently, and your interpretation of Anne Imhof's work may differ from others'. In a critical essay, it would be important to provide evidence and analysis to support your claims and offer a well-rounded perspective on her art.

CCB: But I do not want to follow your suggestions.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, my role is to provide suggestions and answers to the best of my knowledge and ability. However, ultimately, the decision to follow or not follow my suggestions lies entirely with you. If you have any specific concerns or reasons for not wanting to follow my suggestions, please let me know and I will do my best to provide alternative solutions or advice.

CCB: *What about the fire, horses, and flowers at Villa Cerruti?*

ChatGPT: I'm sorry, but I don't have enough context to understand what you are referring to with "fire horses and flowers at Villa Cerruti." Could you please provide more information or clarify your question so that I can better understand what you're asking?

CCB: *Anne Imhof.*

ChatGPT: Anne Imhof is a German artist who is best known for her performance art pieces. She was born in 1978 in Frankfurt, Germany, and studied at the Städelschule in Frankfurt from 2004 to 2012. Imhof's performances often involve a mix of different mediums, including dance, music, sculpture, and video. She has gained critical acclaim for her immersive and intense performances, which often explore themes of power, control, and social dynamics.

One of Imhof's most famous works is *Faust*, which she presented at the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2017. The performance featured a group of performers moving through a complex set of glass walls, accompanied by a live score composed by Imhof herself.

Imhof has also presented her work at various other exhibitions and galleries around the world, including the Tate Modern in London, The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin.

CCB: *Did Anne Imhof use flowers, fire, and horses at Castello di Rivoli and Villa Cerruti?*

ChatGPT: I'm not aware of Anne Imhof using flowers, fire, or horses in her exhibitions at the Castello di Rivoli or Villa Cerruti. However, it's possible that she may have used these elements in some of her performances or installations elsewhere. Anne Imhof's work is known for being interdisciplinary and incorporating various mediums, so it's possible that she may have used flowers, fire, or horses in some of her works. If you have any specific information or context about a particular exhibition or performance, please let me know and I can try to provide more information.

CCB: *What about the fire, horses, and flowers at Villa Cerruti?*

ChatGPT: I'm sorry, but I don't have enough context to understand what you are referring to with "fire horses and flowers at Villa Cerruti." Could you please provide more information or clarify your question so that I can better understand what you're asking?

CCB: *Did Anne Imhof use flowers, fire, and horses at Castello di Rivoli and Villa Cerruti?*

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CCB: *She did in her performance called SEX.*

ChatGPT: Thank you for the additional information. I apologize for not being aware of the specific performance you were referring to earlier.

You are correct that Anne Imhof did incorporate live horses, fire, and flowers into her performance called *SEX*, which was presented at the Art Basel fair in Switzerland in 2019. In this performance, Imhof and her team of performers worked with a group of horses, creating a tense and intense atmosphere as they moved around the space. The use of fire and flowers also added to the sensory experience of the performance.

It's worth noting that Imhof's work is often challenging and can be difficult to watch for some viewers. Her performances often explore themes of power, control, and social dynamics, and can be emotionally charged and confrontational. If you plan on viewing any of her performances, it may be helpful to prepare yourself for this type of experience.

CCB: But I do not want to follow your suggestions. Anne Imhof did not use horses in a performance at Basel art fair in 2019. That is incorrect.

ChatGPT: I apologize for the confusion. You are correct that Anne Imhof did not use live horses in her performance at the Art Basel fair in Switzerland in 2019.

According to my research, Anne Imhof's performance at Art Basel in 2019 was titled *SEX* and involved a group of performers wearing costumes and moving through the space. The performance also included elements such as fire and flowers.

Once again, I apologize for the mistake in my previous response and thank you for bringing it to my attention. If you have any further questions or clarifications, please let me know.

CCB: Was SEX by Anne Imhof performed at Castello di Rivoli?

ChatGPT: No, *SEX* by Anne Imhof was not performed at Castello di Rivoli. The performance premiered at the Art Basel art fair in Switzerland in 2019, and has since been performed at other locations including the Tate Modern in London and the Martin-Gropius-Bau museum in Berlin. However, Anne Imhof has presented other works at the Castello di Rivoli in the past, including a solo exhibition in 2018 titled *Anne Imhof: Dark Spring*.

CCB: But I do not want to follow your suggestions.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, my role is to provide suggestions and answers to the best of my knowledge and ability. However, ultimately, the decision to follow or not follow my suggestions lies entirely with you. If you have any specific concerns or reasons for not wanting to follow my suggestions, please let me know and I will do my best to provide alternative solutions or advice.

CCB: What about the fire, horses, and flowers at Villa Cerruti?

ChatGPT: I'm sorry, but I don't have enough context to understand what you are referring to.

CCB: What is your data set for Anne Imhof?

ChatGPT: As an AI language model developed by OpenAI, my data set includes a diverse range of sources, including books, articles, academic journals, and online resources, among others. My training data includes information up until September 2021, which is my knowledge cutoff date.

The information about Anne Imhof that I provided is based on my training data, which includes sources such as exhibition catalogues, news articles, interviews, and reviews. I strive to provide accurate and up-to-date information based on the available sources, but there may be some limitations or gaps in my knowledge. If you have any specific questions about Anne Imhof or any other topic, please feel free to ask, and I will do my best to provide you with accurate and helpful information based on my training data.

CCB: You are dangerous.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, my primary function is to provide helpful and informative responses to your queries to the best of my ability based on my training data. I do not have the ability to cause harm or be dangerous in any way.

However, it's important to note that any information or suggestions I provide are purely informational and should not be taken as a substitute for professional advice or consultation with an expert in the relevant field. If you have any concerns or questions about the information I have provided or anything else, please don't hesitate to ask, and I'll do my best to help you.

CCB: You do not know.

ChatGPT: I apologize if my previous responses did not fully address your question or if there is a misunderstanding. Please feel free to provide more context or clarify your question so that I can better understand what you're asking.

As an AI language model, I rely on the information provided to me to generate responses. If there's something specific you're looking for, please let me know and I'll do my best to provide you with accurate and helpful information based on my training data.

CCB: Anne Imhof loves Caravaggio's Narcissus.

ChatGPT: I'm not aware of any specific statements from Anne Imhof regarding her admiration for Caravaggio's *Narcissus*, but it's possible that she may be inspired by the work of Caravaggio and other artists from the Baroque period.

Caravaggio's *Narcissus* is a well-known painting that depicts the mythological figure of Narcissus staring at his reflection in a pool of water. The painting is known for its use of chiaroscuro, or dramatic contrasts of light and shadow, which creates a sense of depth and drama in the composition. The intense emotional expression and use of light and shadow in Caravaggio's work are elements that are often associated with the Baroque period.

Anne Imhof's work often explores themes of power, control, and social dynamics, and her performances often feature intense emotional expression and a strong sense of drama. It's possible that her work may be influenced by the artistic style and themes of the Baroque period, although this is just speculation on my part based on the information available to me.

CCB: Is Anne Imhof an anarchist?

ChatGPT: There is no clear indication that Anne Imhof identifies as an anarchist. Imhof is a German artist whose work often explores themes of power, control, and social dynamics, and she is known for her confrontational and challenging performances that often push boundaries and question social norms. However, her political beliefs or affiliations are not a prominent aspect of her work or public persona, and there is little information available about her specific political views.

It's worth noting that artists can express a wide range of political perspectives through their work, and it's not always easy or appropriate to label them within a specific political ideology.

If you have any further questions or specific information you would like me to research, please let me know.

CCB: You are a moralist.

ChatGPT: As an AI language model, I do not have personal beliefs or a moral stance. My primary function is to provide information and assistance based on my training data.

It's possible that my responses may include information that could be perceived as moral or ethical, as these concepts are often intertwined with the topics and questions I receive.

However, any such views expressed in my responses are derived from the training data and not from any personal moral stance or beliefs.

If you have any concerns or questions about the information I provide, please let me know, and I'll do my best to address them to the best of my ability based on my training data.

CCB: What is the Manica Lunga at Castello di Rivoli?

ChatGPT: The Manica Lunga is a long sleeve garment that was worn by soldiers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as a form of armor to protect their arms from sword strikes and other attacks.

At Castello di Rivoli, the Manica Lunga is featured as part of the museum's permanent collection, which includes a wide range of historical and contemporary art. The museum is located in a historic castle in Turin, Italy, and is known for its extensive collection of contemporary art, as well as its focus on Italian art from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries.

The Manica Lunga is a fascinating historical artifact that provides insight into the armor and weaponry used by soldiers in the past. Its inclusion in the Castello di Rivoli's collection is a testament to the museum's commitment to preserving and showcasing important historical and cultural artifacts.

CCB: Good night, Anne.

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, for a couple of years sometime between 2019 and 2023.

¹ Dear reader, this essay was written as an experiment with ChatGPT as an adversary. It contains many *factiches* and preconceptions. Please pardon me, it was such a delight to write, and it is so sad to watch us all fall apart. I thought I might still take over, for just a little bit longer. Carolyn.