



# Proof of Personhood

Identity and Authenticity  
in the Face of AI

22 Sep 23 – 25 Feb 24  
Tanjong Pagar Distripark



Image: Zach Blas & Jemima Wyman, *im here to learn so :))))))*, HD video still, 2017; Courtesy of the Artists.

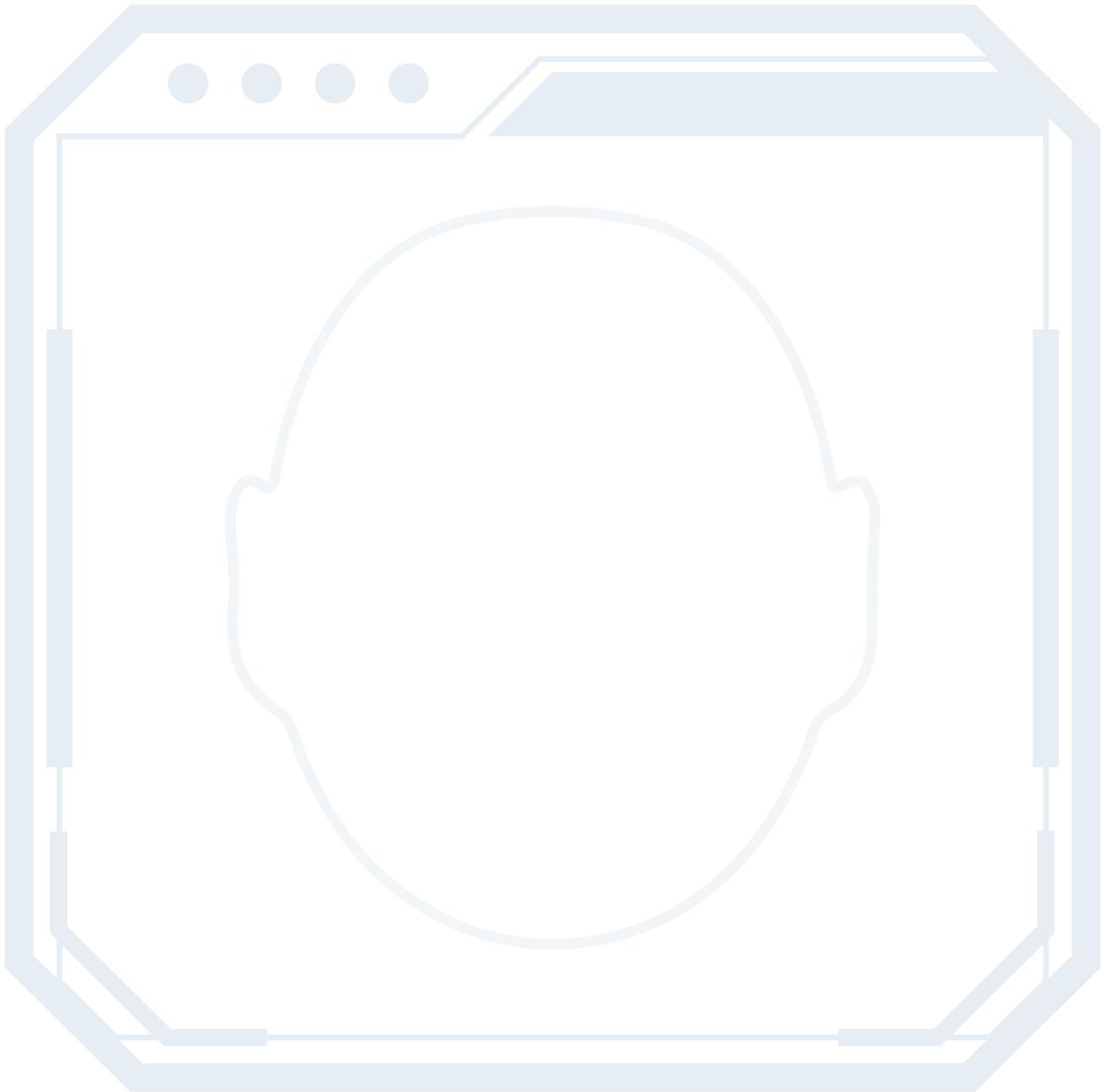
## LEARNING RESOURCE

What does it mean to be human in the  
face of new technology?

Name:

Class:

This educational resource features selected artworks  
and guiding questions suitable for ages 9 and up.



Imagine you are an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) robot**.  
What would you look like?



Draw your **AI robot** self above!



Installation view of *Justin*, 2012. Image courtesy of SAM.

## Song-Ming Ang

### *Justin*

2012

Autographed poster,  
33 A4 practice sheets,  
A4 source image  
Collection of  
Singapore Art Museum



### Did You Know?

- Justin Drew Bieber is a Canadian singer who is known for the internationally successful single “Baby.”
- Over the course of three months, artist Song-Ming Ang learned to **copy** Justin Bieber’s signature. He successfully **forged** the singer’s autograph on a poster.
- The artist wanted to use the technique of “sampling” to create his artwork. In music, sampling refers to taking a section of sound from an existing audio clip and reworking it to form a new track.



### Think!

1. Why do you think people ask for autographs from pop stars? Do you think a signature is a unique and reliable representation of a person? Why?
2. Why do you think the artist chose to copy Justin Bieber’s signature?



### Activity!

Sign your signature (or create one, if you do not have one yet) in the box on the left. Once you are done, find a friend to copy your signature in the box on the right.

Sign your name here!

Ask a friend to copy your signature here!



Installation view of *Zahra*, 2023 and *Sheera*, 2023. Image courtesy of SAM.

## William Wiebe

*Zahra*

2023

*Sheera*

2023

Chromogenic prints,  
RFID chips, biometric data  
Collection of the artist



### Did You Know?

- Some passports contain a contactless chip that stores **biometric data**, such as fingerprints and facial images.
- The artist William Wiebe presents a series of seven altered images of former Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg.
- Wiebe used biometric data obtained on the dark web, an area of the internet that can only be accessed through particular software, to alter her features. This is a face-morphing technique that is used to create fake passports. The title of each image generated is based on these **stolen identities**.
- The artwork demonstrates how the human body is crucial for identifying a person, especially in a world where biometric data can be manipulated to create fake identities.



### Think!

1. Observe the seven images closely.  
How are the features of the person pictured similar or different?
2. Imagine your digital identity was stolen. How would you feel? Why?
3. What do you lose when someone steals your identity?



### Activity!

Draw/list three features that help people to identify you!

Three empty rectangular boxes with a light blue border, intended for drawing or listing features that help identify a person.



Installation view of *Being Human*, 2019/2022. Image courtesy of SAM.

**Christopher  
Kulendran  
Thomas with  
Annika Kuhlmann**  
*Being Human*  
2019/2022

Single-channel video  
installation, 2:1, colour and  
sound (stereo), 25 min



### Did You Know?

- The installation functions as a show-within-a-show, which includes a video and multiple physical artworks.
- The paintings and sculptures include artworks created by contemporary Sri Lankan artists and artworks generated by an **AI system** trained on the work of these artists.
- For *Being Human*, artists Christopher Kulendran Thomas and Annika Kuhlmann imagined fictional visitors to the Colombo Art Biennale, an art event in the capital of Sri Lanka.
- Interviews with these fictional guests were created using **deepfake technology**, a type of AI that replaces one person's appearance with another's.
- *Being Human* asks: "What does it mean to be human when machines can pretend to be humans so convincingly?"



### Think!

1. Why do you think the artist chose to present a fictional art fair?
2. Describe how you felt when you learnt that parts of the artworks were generated using an AI system.



### Activity!

If you could make an artwork about a fictional event, what would be its theme and who would you feature?

## Educators' Talking Points

### Song-Ming Ang

*Justin*  
2012

#### Prompts to Guide Discussion:

- What is the difference between forging and copying?
- Can a signature be used to prove a person's identity? Why?
- Should people forge another person's signature?

#### Suggested activity:

Divide the class in half and assign each group to argue for or against the following claim:

*"It is not ethical nor socially acceptable to forge or copy someone else's work, document or signature."*

### William Wiebe

*Lily*  
2023

#### Prompts to Guide Discussion:

- Why would someone want to steal another person's identity?
- What are the consequences of identity theft for the victim?

*Zahra*  
2023

#### Suggested activity:

Discuss a scenario on identity theft (to help them learn to prevent, protect themselves from, and respond to identity theft).

*Erika*  
2023

**Social Media Impersonation Scenario:** A hacker creates a fake social media profile using someone else's identity and starts posting harmful or misleading content, damaging the person's reputation and relationships.

*Alessia*  
2023

Divide the class in half and assign each group a role.

*Sozan*  
2023

**Group A are hackers who are creating a fake social media profile using Group B's identity.**

*Sheera*  
2023

**Group A to discuss and present to Group B:**

*Raghda*  
2023

- Why are they stealing other people's identities?
- How are they doing so?

**Group B are the victims of identity theft.**

**Group B to discuss and present to Group A:**

- How does the theft of their social media identity affect them?
- What will they do in response to identity theft?
- How would they protect themselves from identity theft?

## Educators' Talking Points

**Christopher  
Kulendran  
Thomas  
with Annika  
Kuhlmann**  
*Being Human*  
2019/2022

**Prompts to Guide Discussion:**

- How have people been using deepfake technology?
- Do you consider AI-generated works to be authentic works of art?

**Suggested activity:**

Divide the class in half and assign each group to argue for or against the following claim:

*“It is morally acceptable to use deepfake technology to create the image of another person without their consent.”*

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