SICV (Scandinavian Institute of Computational Vandalism)

The archive activists **Michael Murtaugh, Nicolas Malevé** and **Ellef Prestsæter** present the installation *The Scandinavian Institute of Computational Vandalism* in the vitrine of Constant. During the opening on **Wednesday, January 27 at 18:00**, you will have the opportunity to discover the treasures hidden behind its virtual scenes.

The project is inspired by the *Scandinavian Institute of Comparative Vandalism* (SICV) founded by Asger Jorn shortly after leaving the Situationist International in 1961. The SICV was an art and research association experimenting with the practice of collage, the forces of photography, image archives, and political imaginaries. Today Computational Vandalism challenges the assumptions at the basis of computer vision, the discipline that programmatically ties together the visual and the mnemonic.

Les activistes des archives **Michael Murtaugh, Nicolas Malevé** et **Ellef Prestsæter** présentent dans la vitrine de Constant l'installation *l'Institut Scandinave de Vandalisme Computationnel*. Pendant le **vernissage, le mercredi 27 janvier à 18h00**, vous aurez l'occasion de découvrir les trésors qui se cachent dans ses coulisses virtuelles.

Ce projet est inspiré par *l'Institut Scandinave de Vandalisme Comparé* (SICV) fondé par Asger Jorn peu après avoir quitté l'Internationale Situationniste en 1961. C'était le nom d'une association combinant les pratiques du collage, le potentiel de la photographie, les archives d'images et les expériences politiques. En utilisant ces méthodes, le Vandalisme Computationnel remet en question les hypothèses à la base de la vision par ordinateur, une discipline qui utilise le code informatique pour relier la vision et la mémoire.

Programmeur en mediakunstenaars **Michael Murtaugh, Nicolas Malevé** en **Ellef Prestsæter** presenteren in de vitrine van Constant de installatie *Scandinavisch Instituut voor Computer Vandalisme*. Tijdens de **opening op woensdag 27 januari om 18:00** kan je enkele schatten ontdekken die anders in de coulissen verborgen blijven.

Dit project is geïnspireerd op het *Scandinavian Institute for Comparative Vandalism* (SICV), opgericht door Asger Jorn kort na zijn afscheid van de Situationisten in 1961. Het was de naam van een vereniging die collage combineerde met het potentieel van fotografie, beeldarchieven en politieke ervaringen. Het *Scandinavisch Instituut voor Computer Vandalisme* gebruikt dezelfde methoden om de stellingnames die aan de basis liggen van computer vision te bevragen, een discipline die de visuele en mnemonische gereedschappen in software verenigt.

Red, green, blue
What is significant color information? Contrary to human intuition, for a computer, a white image is an image saturated with red, blue and green. To find the images that look the most blueish, that appear most red or green, we counted only the color values that were superior to the others by a certain threshold.

Black boxes
Lexicality and Texture. These layers are produced using Tesseract, a software for optical character recognition (OCR). An OCR program operates at different levels of granularity. It can detect lines, words, symbols. Lexicality shows the words detected in an image, while Texture shows the symbols detected. Texture is configured to be rather tolerant in its understanding of what a character is. It therefore tends to see characters in unexpected places.

Colored contours
Edges detected on each image. In addition to tracing the outer boundaries of the image fragments, the algorithm connects the lines into a series of distinct segments represented by a different color.

Magenta circles
SIFT features (scale-invariant feature transform) are *interesting* points of an image that can be extracted to provide its *feature description*. This description can then be used to identify (parts of) an image, even when rotated or changed.