and Dan and (when some small metal is spun)
Itziar Barrio
May 5 - June 9, 2023

OPENING: May 5, 6 - 8PM
CONVERSATION: Itziar Barrio, Candystore and Jared Katzman, moderated by Thyrza Nichols Goodeve, Friday May 19, 7PM
PERFORMANCE by The Fool Volk, June 9, 7PM

La MaMa presents and Dan and (when some small metal is spun), a video based project by Itziar Barrio involving the creation of a narrative using artificial-intelligence. The resulting grammar is a glitched, a subverted and at times incorrect one. The language of poetry prevails in the final text resisting logic and opening future horizons. Itziar Barrio’s solo exhibition will include and Dan and (when some small metal is spun) video, and related works. Barrio has developed this project as a member at the New Museum’s incubator NEW INC.

This piece uses now legacy technology, GPT-2, a form of generative large-language Transformer model that was a predecessor to ChatGPT. The script was generated in collaboration with creative technologist Jared Katzman, by using an algorithm that mimicked an amalgamation of texts across three datasets: a collection of texts from the Cyberfeminism Index; a subset of Poetry books from Project Gutenberg; and a manuscript of poetry from the performer Candystore. Through alternating different prompts to the AI model and putting them in conversation, dominant narratives around labor and bodies become transfixed by the salacious and radical musings of the trained artificial-intelligent model. This unpredictable text has been then interpreted by Candystore — uncertain and vulnerable — while being filmed.

and Dan and (when some small metal is spun) explores the idea of meaning - or the lack there of - between the interplay of the AI model, the script, and Candystore's interpretation. Using an earlier ancestor to ChatGPT, language models have shown and complicated what meaning looks and feels like, as so much of the conversations around ChatGPT is a misattribution of meaning around the affect of language. These systems are getting better at parroting meaningful and coherent language, but then at the same time we are quickly exposed to how quickly the AI shows its incoherence and lack of understanding. This video piece analyzes these themes and reminds us of the importance and nuance of meaning. When does it matter that the AI is coherent or incoherent? When does it matter for humans to be coherent and incoherent (not to mention incoherence is a politically powerful tool in a world of oppressive rationalization)? And how do we remind ourselves that at the end of the day, humans are who give these systems and other people meaning - it doesn't exist in objective truth. - Jared Katzman, Technologist

Special thanks to Lia Gangitano, PARTICIPANT INC and CULTUREHUB NYC.
and Dan and (when some small metal is spun)

4K video, 2022, 15:25

CREDITS
Director and Idea: Itziar Barrio.
Creative technologist: Jared Katzman.
Performer and Poet: Candystore.
Editor: Itziar Barrio.
Cameras: Erin Smith and Itziar Barrio.
Audio: Erin Smith.

Text written and generated in collaboration between Itziar Barrio, Jared Katzman and Candystore using data and a generative large-language Transformer model (GPT-2) Sustainably created garments by Timothy Westbrook.
Filmed at GUM studios, NYC, September 2021
Produced by Tabakalera
With the collaboration of GUM studios.
Many thanks to: Adonay Bermúdez, Carrie White (GUM studios), Jared Katzman, Candystore, Timothy Westbrook, Zachary Kaplan (Rhizome), Mindy Seu, Kat Mustatea, Sue Huang, C. Finley and the the New Museum's incubator NEW INC Community.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Itziar Barrio is a multimedia artist based in NYC. She is internationally recognized for her contributions to the intersections of art, film, and technology. Her interdisciplinary, boundary breaking work has been exhibited at art institutions across the United States, Latin America, and Europe. Her work aims to re-write dominant narratives about social contracts, identity, the construction of reality, as well as labor politics and ownership over means of production. Johanna Burton (Director of The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and former curator at the New Museum ) has noted: "Barrio’s work points to the ways in which gender, race, sexuality, labor, desire, and more are the subtext of all negotiations, whether political or personal. Yet, rather than simply victims of circumstance, we may work to write, rewrite, or reroute the stories in which we play a part, whether small or large."

Barrio’s work has been presented internationally at PARTICIPANT INC (NYC), MACRO Museum (Rome), MACBA Museum (Barcelona), Belgrade’s Contemporary Art Museum, Museo del Banco de la República (Bogotá), Salzburger Kunstverein, and the Havana Biennial among many others. Her monographic exhibition, BY ALL MEANS (2018), was curated by Johanna Burton, and her forthcoming monograph will be published by SKIRA in 2023. Barrio’s work has been written about in ARTFORUM, Art in America, The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail, ART PAPERS, and BOMB. Barrio has received awards by NYSCA, the Brooklyn Art Council, Ministry of Culture of Spain, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and the Royal Spanish Academy in Rome. She is currently a member of the New Museum’s NEW INC incubator. She teaches at the School of Visual Arts (NYC) and Sarah Lawrence College (NY), and has lectured internationally.

www.itziarbarrio.com
**RELATED PROGRAMS:**
**A CONVERSATION with Itziar Barrio, Candystore, Jared Katzman and Thyrza Nichols Goodeve**
**Friday May 19, 2023, at 7 pm**

Thyrza Nichols Goodeve is a writer and interviewer who writes with contemporary art and artists. Her interests range from art as a “structure of feeling,” to human/nonhuman animal ontologies, the natural fantastic, the aesthetics of wonder, the history of modernism(s), surrealist methodologies, dystopias and utopias, and the metaphysics of technology. Currently, she is co-editor of *Workstyles of Mildred’s Lane* with Morgan J. Puett and editor and writer with Joan Waltemath, Jarrett Ernest, Christine Davis, and Helen Molesworth of *Critical Dialogues*—two books about academic crits and painting from the Hoffberger School of Painting at MICA. Her book-length interview portrait *How Like A Leaf* with Donna J. Haraway (1999) has been re-published in several languages including Turkish, Japanese, Italian, and Spanish. She has published in *The Brooklyn Rail, Art Agenda, Artforum, Art in America*, and numerous artist catalogs among them, Raymon Elouza, *Structure and Dissonance* (Everson Museum, 2022), Suzanne Anker and Frank Gillette, *Strata* (Everson Museum), Alexis Rockman, *The Great Lakes Cycle*, 2018), Joan Waltemath, *In the Absence of Grief* (2015), *Tom Friedman* (Gagosian, 2008), *Ellen Gallagher* (Anthony d’Offay, (1999). From 2017 to 2019 she was the Senior Art Editor of *The Brooklyn Rail* where she is now an Editor-at-Large. She has a Masters in Cinema Studies from NYU (1984) and a Ph.D. from The History of Consciousness Program, UC Santa, Cruz (1994) and is on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts in the MFA Art Practice, MFA Fine Arts, and MFA Computer Arts programs.

[https://www.thyrzanicholsgoodeve.net/](https://www.thyrzanicholsgoodeve.net/)

Jared Katzman is a technologist working on a diverse set of applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Their research focuses on how to anticipate and address the harms of automated systems, in order to inform approaches for the responsible development, regulation, and resistance of artificial intelligence (AI). They graduated from Yale University cum laude with a BS in Computer Science and are a PhD student at the University of Michigan's School of Information with a specialization in Science, Technology, and Public Policy. Previously, Jared worked for five years in industry AI research labs at both Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Research, developed technology mentorship programs for LGBTQ+ youth through the non-profit Out in Tech, and participated as a member in the art and tech incubator NEW INC in NYC. Building on these experiences, they are finding ways to take a more responsible, democratic, and humble approach to developing technology. [Jaredleekatzman.com](https://www.jaredleekatzman.com)

Candystore was a 2018-2019 artist-in-residence with Shandaken: Governor’s Island and a 2018-2019 fellow in the Queer | Art | Mentorship program. In 2019, she-he was one of four recipients of the Shannon Michael Cane Award from Printed Matter, which allowed shimher the opportunity to produce and self publish her debut, *SOLD OUT* book of poetry, Hi Angels: Poems by Candystore, which then begat the 2020 extended version, Hi Angels: DELUXE—also sold out, sorry. Candystore’s writing and art have been published in PAPER Magazine, Philè Magazine, Riot of Perfume, Precog Mag, RFD, and others. She-he has performed abroad and
around New York City, most notably at MoMA PS1 (though it was only in the book store) and Dixon Place (but in that weird area between the bar and the bathroom). Candystore also performs every time she-he uses a public, "binary-themed" restroom. In shimher spare time, Candystore creates and produces a highly chaotic, raunchy TV project and live stage show called She-he loves dick and lives in Brooklyn, NY with a snake named Mascara.
https://hicandy.store/

PERFORMANCE: The Fool Volk, June 9, 2023
On the closing night of Barrio's show, June 9th, there will be a devised performance inspired by the exhibition by the gallery’s collective in residence, The Fool Volk. Their process includes interviews with the artist, exploring the La MaMa archives, embracing the exhibitions subject matter, Clownery, poetry, classical theatre, technology, etc. This site specific-performance will also be shown alongside community submissions for the event.

ABOUT LA MAMA GALLERIA: Founded in 1984, La Galleria is a nonprofit gallery committed to nurturing experimentation in the visual arts. La Galleria encourages an active dialogue between new media, performance, the plastic and visual arts, curatorial projects, and educational initiatives. It serves the East Village community by offering diverse programming to an inter-generational audience, and expanding the parameters of a traditional gallery space. As a non-profit, La Galleria is able to provide artists and curators with unique exhibition opportunities that are largely out of reach in a commercial gallery setting.
https://www.lamama.org/shows/itziar-barrio-2023
https://www.lamama.org/programs/la-mama-galleria