



SHADOWS OF TIME

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EXPLORATIONS IN A.I. GEN ART

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INSPIRATION:

I'm drawn to a mix of disciplines, each with its unique appeal.

Photography is timeless, architecture is something powerful and resistant, while techno as a subculture is fluid and ever changing. Cinematography is deeply personal and so inspiring. In the process of creating this work I learned how to follow my intuition and curiosity to get inspired by what is around me. I learned that forcefully looking for a topic or inspiration online does not work (more about this in the discussion).

The inspiration process I split into the subcategories of Photography, Cinema, architecture and Techno as a subculture. Starting with photography respectively. For each category I want to highlight artists and artworks which inspired me for this work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Frank



His work feels very intimate and personal while also creating a boundary between the watcher and the person being photographed, he manages to create this unsettling feeling of vulnerable intimacy.

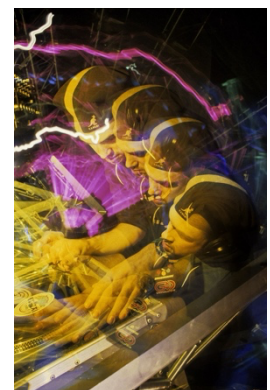
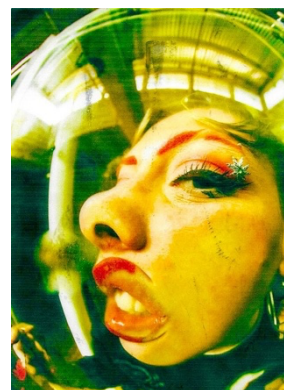
Fan Ho



Her work inspires me because she manages to create surreal looking scenes from everyday life of normal people. It feels like she is not visible to the people she photographs which creates this illusion of a spectator. In addition, how she incorporates the light into her shots it beautiful.

Micheal Tullberg

He manages to capture what techno feels for a lot of people the getting lost in the moment and showing a side of you that you are normally too afraid to show. His almost duotone color scheme is a big influence on my work. His depiction of movement is impressive



Cinema

Frances HA



Frances HA perfectly captures the feeling of feeling lost in your twenties, while romanticizing the process of finding your true passion in a funny and relatable way. The movie showed me that it is okay to feel lost sometimes and it might even be helpful to reach your destination, which is something I wanted to capture in my video!



Der Himmel über Berlin



This movie has one of the best cinematography and storytelling ever the combination of showing personal feelings while also incorporating the daunting feeling of a black and white city is truly special. The feeling of always listening to thoughts and conversations but never being able to interact with people is haunting. The feeling that the architecture of Berlin after the WWII conveys inspired me for my work.

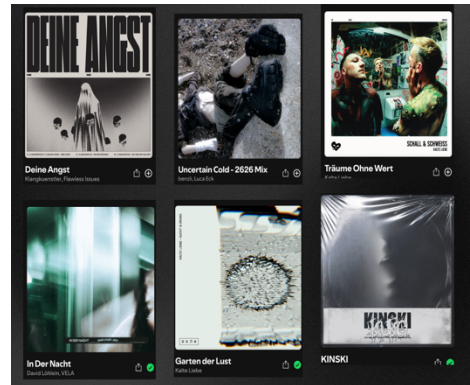
Architecture

Especially the movie “Der Himmel über Berlin” made me notice that I wanted to draw inspiration from architecture and the feeling it creates. Here are some of the buildings that inspired me.

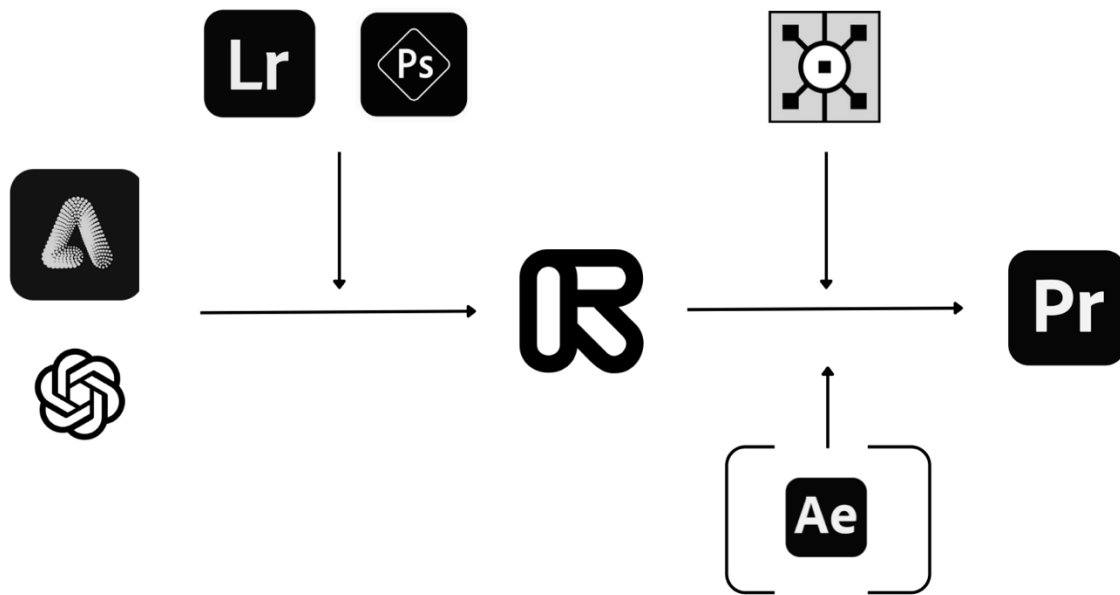


MUSIC / TECHNO

I am a big fan of Techno music and the subculture around it therefore it felt natural to draw inspiration from it as well. The architecture has a big influence as well but also the music this section highlights some of the venues and artists that have a big impact.



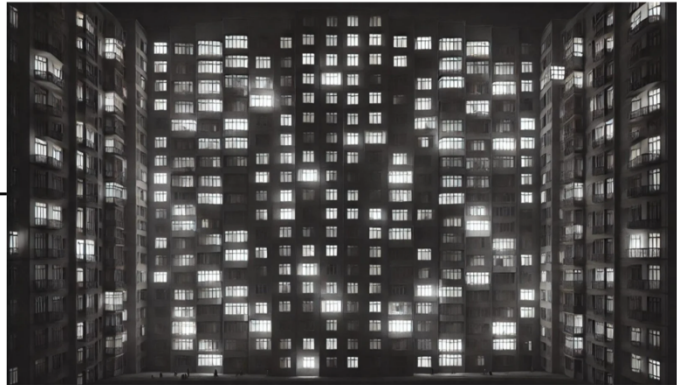
workflow



my workflow consisted out of various tools. First, I prompted ChatGPT or Adobe Firefly with a picture I wanted to create. To optimize the process, I gave the models inspiration picture for reference. Once the pictures were generated used photo editing apps like lightroom and photoshop depending on the manipulation I wanted to do. With runway I animated the pictures. I used Touch designer for a few subtle effects on the videos and PremierPro as my editing software for the final video.

DALLE workflow

PROMPT: “create a picture inspired by this picture, black and white, lights in some apartments while others are dark, the shot is from far away and should have a moody lighting”



On most of the picture generations I worked with Adobe Firefly, this is the only picture I used from ChatGPT in my final video, but I still wanted to explain the workflow. I prompted ChatGPT with the prompt you see above and included a picture of a brutalist architecture high-rise as a reference. The prompt tells ChatGPT to take the picture as a reference and create a completely new picture based on it. The result I am very happy with. It ended up being the starting picture of my Video.

ADOBE FIREFLY

The Adobe Firefly workflow was very similar I gave Adobe Firefly inspiration pictures for reference and prompted it with the visuals I wanted to be created, Firefly also allows to customize your output to parameters like photo, low lighting, black and white. I made use of them to create a cohesive theme and tried not to change the prompt too much to create similar themed pictures.



PROMPT

Prompt
black and white shot, energetic, lonely, techno, shadows, forgetting time

Clear

Style reference x

Photo x

Low lighting x

Black and white x

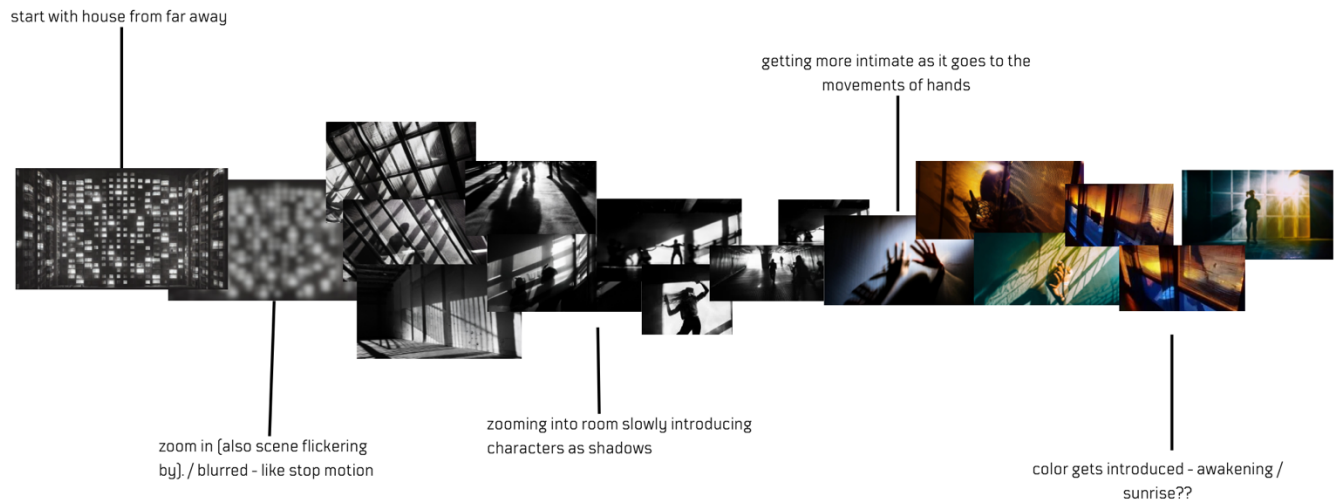
Suggestions

Try Prompt

A collage of 20 photographs by David LaChapman. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping. They feature silhouettes of people in various settings, often with dramatic lighting and shadows. The subjects are engaged in different activities, such as dancing, walking, and standing. The backgrounds are diverse, including architectural structures, windows, and abstract patterns. The lighting is a key element, with strong contrasts between light and shadow, creating a sense of mystery and drama. The overall aesthetic is that of a visual diary or a collection of moments captured in time.

STORYBOARD

The idea in my video was to go from far away closer and closer into the privacy of the “actors” in the video. It starts with the building block and zooms into the rooms and changes scenes. Then it gets closer and closer highlighting the people dancing and getting lost in time.



DISCUSSION

In the creation process I faces some issues the biggest issue for me was coming up with a cohesive theme which would guide the viewer through the whole video. In the beginning I tried to find inspiration from Pinterest which turned out to be quite hard. My biggest learning in this course is how to find inspiration and create a process in which I use inspiration in a useful manner to create a theme / topic for a video. In the process I also tried different tools like stable diffusion and other text-to-video transformers, for me Runway worked the best because of its ease to use and the premium version which we got. Stable diffusion does have a lot of potential, but a lot of computational power and know-how is needed to create anything meaningful. In conclusion I am happy with my result and how the story leaves room for interpretation. In addition, the music feels to fit well to the visuals which makes it more immersive. My experimentation with adding a German voice to the video also made it more personal.

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