

Table of Contents

Abstract 9

Acknowledgements 11

Chapter 1: Introduction 15

On Machinic Ways of Seeing the Face: Aim and Background 15

Cultural Analyses of Biometrics: Previous Scholarship 21

Language and Visual Artifacts: Empirical Material 27

Temporalities – History as Critical Inquiry: Methodology 33

Machinic Observer – Seeing as Recognition:
Theoretical Framework 38

Outline 47

Part I: Aesthetics of an Algorithm

Chapter 2: Eigenface 55

Background: Eigenface in the Development
of AFR Technology 55

Bledsoe: “The Model Method in Facial Recognition” 57

Representational Mechanisms and the Machinic Observer 61

Three Aspects of Eigenface 66

The Eigenface Image 78

Chapter 3: Francis Galton and the Composite Portrait	85
Pictorial Statistics	85
Zones of Normality	90
A Sociological Ideal	96

Chapter 4: Wittgenstein and the Composite Portrait	101
A Destabilization of Vision	102
Aspect Perception and Aspect Blindness	108
Negotiations of Recognition	110
Concluding Remarks	112

Part II: Artistic Interventions

Chapter 5: Portraiture in the Age of AFR	117
Phantom Portraits	120

Chapter 6: Metaportraits: <i>Thomas Ruff, andere Portraits</i>	125
Background: The Composite Portrait in Contemporary Art	125
Identification Portraiture	126
<i>andere Portraits</i> (1994-1995)	129
Metaportraits and the Binary Face	131
Scale	137
Concluding Remarks	139

Chapter 7: Faces in Excess:	
Zach Blas, <i>Facial Weaponization Suite</i>	141
Background: A Conceptual Framework	141
Facial Weaponization Suite (2011-2014)	145
A Collective Excess	151
Concluding Remarks	156

Chapter 8: An Algorithmic Ready-made:	
Trevor Paglen, <i>Adversarially Evolved Hallucination and Eigenface (Even The Dead Are Not Safe)</i>	159
Background: Notions of transparency	159
Adversarially Evolved Hallucination (2017)	162

Eigenface (Even the Dead Are Not Safe) (2017)	169
Concluding Remarks	175
Chapter 9: Conclusion	177
Contribution to the field	177
Revisiting the Aim: Looking Back	180
The Composite Form	182
Recommendations: Looking Forward	184
References	187
List of Images	195

