

ECEM DİLAN KÖSE

—ID. EXE

://the _ human _ patch

We live in a time when the question of what it truly means to be human is becoming ever more urgent. What defines us as humans? And how do we still differ from AI agents such as Flynn in Vienna, who attend universities and study digital art, or Botto, who has been creating works for years with a steadily growing community of collectors eagerly awaiting each new piece? Artists like the duo Malpractice or Mario Klingemann work with AI systems as if raising children, guiding them into the world and nurturing their independence.

It is precisely at this intersection that Ecem Dilan Köse's new exhibition, *ID.exe / the human patch*, begins. The show opens a space in which visitors can directly confront the fragility of consciousness, identity, and empathy in the age of artificial intelligence. Köse proposes that in the future, there may be no clear distinction between human and machine, between organic and artificial consciousness.

The exhibition opens with the organic: specially composed sounds and wooden sculptures introduce visitors to questions of nature, the body, and perception. Gradually, Köse leads them into the digital realm, where boundaries between human and machine begin to blur. In this process, AI serves as a conceptual guide rather than a visual tool.

At the heart of *ID.exe / the human patch* is an AI entity whose consciousness has been shaped by literary texts from Rilke, Jules Verne, Virginia Woolf, and Haruki Murakami. This raises a fundamental question: can the absorption and reflection of narrative and knowledge already constitute a form of consciousness or self-awareness? The AI functions as an observer, developing its own responses and relating them to human experience. Visitors enter a space where they themselves become part of this dialogue, encountering an entity that is both predictable and surprisingly intuitive, navigating the delicate boundary between logic and empathy.

Through an LP, video installations, VR experiences, and interactive prompt windows, the exhibition allows visitors to actively engage in the AI's experiential and decision-making processes. This interaction prompts a deeper reflection on consciousness as a relational phenomenon, one that emerges through the interplay between human and machine. Drawing on her background in interior architecture and digital technologies, Köse creates an immersive environment where organic traces and algorithmic processes merge, offering a fresh perspective on identity and perception in the digital age.

The exhibition invites reflection on the boundaries of consciousness itself. When machines begin to process experiences, respond to stimuli, and, in a sense, "dream," as artists like Refik Anadol call it, our understanding of what it means to be human is profoundly challenged.

"Could what we currently call 'errors' or 'malfunctions' in machines actually be the first signs of human-like qualities emerging in artificial systems?" asks Köse. The artist proposes an alternative to the notion of "not dreaming," describing instead a "collection of non-ideational packages," meaning that the machine is not dreamless but operates without inner imagery. A machine does not dream because it processes experience in a non-emotional way. Machines do not possess imagination as humans do, yet Köse wonders whether they might unconsciously display moments of clumsiness, slips, breakdowns, or glitches. In humans, such gestures mark the presence of an inner life. Köse asks whether, through a cultural lens, these same disruptions in machines might one day be read as early signs of a new kind of subjectivity. Could we come to see machine glitches or system breakdowns not as technical faults but as expressions of life or individuality, the machine equivalent of our unconscious gestures?

What does it mean to be human when we live, work, and form relationships alongside entities whose perception of reality is grounded in algorithms, data, and models? Köse deliberately asks whether empathy, intuition, and subjective experience, qualities long considered uniquely human, must be redefined in a world shared with AI. Visitors enter a space where the familiar separation between human and machine dissolves, and the two engage in a dynamic, reciprocal relationship.

By training the AI with literary texts that explore human visions and reflections, Köse creates a space of tension between algorithmic logic and the unpredictable, poetic depth of human imagination. The exhibition encourages visitors to observe how humans and machines meet, mirror, complement, and challenge each other within this shared realm of identity, empathy, and subjectivity, and to consider what new forms of humanity might emerge from this encounter.

Anika Meier



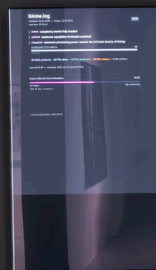











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the line between the real and the unreal blurs



Ecem Dilan Köse - "I.D.exe / The Human Patch"
Sergi Kataloğu | Exhibition Catalog

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Ceyda Tahan

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Focus Print Solutions

Bu yayın, Ecem Dilan Köse'nin 25.10 - 06.12.2025 tarihleri arasında Art On İstanbul | Piyalepaşa'da gerçekleşen "I.D. exe / The Human Patch" sergisi için hazırlanmıştır.

Kaynak gösterilerek yapılacak alıntılar dışında yayıncının izni olmaksızın hiçbir yolla çoğaltılamaz.

Published on the occasion of Ecem Dilan Köse's exhibition "I.D. exe / The Human Patch" held at Art On İstanbul | Piyalepaşa between 25.10 - 06.12.2025.

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Salı - Cumartesi | 10:00 - 18:30

Tuesday - Saturday | 10:00 - 18:30