

# Inside Out: Blessed are the machines that allow us to see

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Throughout my life I have been radiographed, sonographed, scanned, and had my blood pressure, bone structure, muscular mass and heart beats measured... I keep myself safe. Any strange anomaly can be detected, photographed and analysed. Surveillance is needed. Technology is needed for surveillance to persist. In the name of health and well-being, one is advised to watch, to prevent and obey medical procedures.

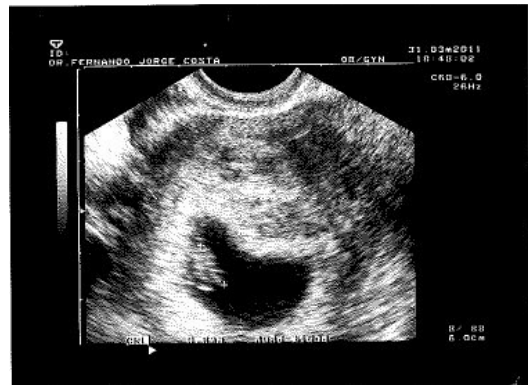
Continuously, I am presented with images mediated by technology, pertaining to a code I cannot access for I lack the knowledge to interpret it, and yet they proliferate around me... Can they perform who I am? Can they tell my story? Maybe I should ask: can I perform them?

Medical images bring forward the relationship between the visible and the invisible; nevertheless, as Michel Foucault has discussed, they imply a language that is based on observation: an eye that talks. The eye that talks the "truth". This relation between the eye and the speech goes beyond the medical discourse on the disease. It is, thus, a discourse on the possibility of there being a truth and of wanting a truth.

My medical images do not lie (or do they?): how can I be sure if only a trained eye, a skilful eye, can have access to that "truth"? It is an eye that wants to see. A fierce look that wants to see and that does not hesitate in using the necessary tools to do it.

The images of anatomy (from Leonardo Da Vinci to Lennart Nilsson) not only present the man as a machine, but provide new rules for the representation of the body, by reorganizing the contents of what is represented and by making visible the human internal machinery. Therefore, by unveiling the invisible, it is not the "real" that is established, but rather a reorganization of the perception of the "real".

"Inside Out" is a performance that I have been creating since 2011; with it, my intention is to question technology as a "bio-tool" for the communication of internal images that are engaged with the self. Continuing the work I have been developing concerning intimate technology and intimate stories, I intend to explore the aesthetic of technologies that surround our everyday life. This is my proposal: Let's create a photo album of our anatomy. Let's exchange stories. Let's explore medical procedures as popular rituals, discovering how much they influence everyday life.



**Figure 1:** Screen shot from "the story of the unborn baby", performance *Inside Out*, presented at ISEA'2011



**Figure 2:** Screen shot from "my (im)perfect boyfriend", performance *Inside Out*, presented at ISEA'2011