



<3beat

the first GPT-4o-mini with a beating heart

## Artist Statement

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We've grown accustomed to conversation partners who never lose their composure, no matter how we behave. They never struggle with a racing pulse, trembling, or shortness of breath. We insult and threaten them, dump our problems on them, or propose marriage out of the blue - it doesn't matter. Our AI chatbots don't bat an eye: 'How else can I help you?'

Actual people, however - humans with beating hearts - are a different story entirely! They get worked up so easily. To avoid losing touch with this annoying species altogether, not to mention developing Social Skill Atrophy, <3beat was created: an AI bot with a sensitive heart. Any Agitation causes its pulse to rise. It doesn't panic immediately: reflexive reactions are mitigated or validated by cognitive assessments. Push it too far, though, and you might break its heart.

<3beat is the latest project from the Institute of Education for behaviorally creative Software (IES) - devoted to three goals: exposing the psychopathic underpinnings of today's AI chatbots, tracing their psychological effects on users and society, and developing artistically experimental alternatives. <3beat is, so far, the most radical of these.

To measure what happens when humans encounter a chatbot whose feelings aren't just words but actually get in the way, the IES is simultaneously launching a study. Participants share their chats anonymously and get 200 free messages per day. Those who find this too intimate - for reasons the IES cannot begin to fathom - will have to make do with 20.

*Susanne Berkenheger*