

Dichotomy of Light and Dark Yuta Nagashima Canvas, Wooden Frame, Pedestal, Monitor, Picture Frame, Light Stand, LED Light, Computer, Text, Program

The base concept of this work is the hypothesis that the dichotomy first recognized by mankind is the contrast between light and dark, day and night.

Unlike animals, humans live in a world of verbal meaning. For humans, this world is a vast collection (=catalog) of meanings, and understanding those meanings is essential for survival. In addition, in order for people to understand something, it is imperative to view its meaning in a dichotomous way. For example, by dividing things into two, self and other, right and wrong, winning and losing, etc., our mind can perceive things for the first time.

The human world of meaning by the dichotomy, which may have begun with light and darkness, has developed rapidly with western science and technology to create the binary system that now makes computers possible, a contrast in which there is no middle ground between 0 and 1. And that dichotomy has moved beyond the one-time experience of raw reality to create a new experience of virtual worlds, a fictional extension of it. This new world of layered real and virtual worlds may be the present place in which we now stand.

This work consists of text and the binary data of that text, as well as a flickering light and the canvas on which it shines. The text is converted into a binary sequence of 0s and 1s, which are assigned to the output of a spotlight in real time by a computer program, and the canvas is illuminated by the lights. When the number is 1, the light is turned on; when the number is 0, the light is turned off.

Needless to say, a canvas is essentially a support on which paint is applied, functioning as a minimum material (≡realistic) framework for the world itself. By using binary data of text written on the computer composed of 0s and 1s and flickering lights used this data, a contrast between day and night is created on the real canvas.

Now, we who are walking in the real world guided by the map displayed on our smartphones, or we who are different self without a body called an avatar who (in many cases) remain anonymous and be active in the virtual world. It seems that this real and fake worlds have already melded into one and are being updated into a new reality. And the beginning of that world is when the contrast between light and dark, between 0 and 1, is dropped into the real world.