

# HEFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Luke Shannon: *Replacement Character*

October 8 – November 8, 2025



Luke Shannon, *Friday*, August 22, 2025, at 5:11 PM

**September 16, 2025 (New York)** – On October 8, Heft Gallery will present *Replacement Character*, a new solo exhibition by New York-based artist Luke Shannon. Examining surveillance and selfhood, the exhibition is anchored by Shannon's interactive, kinetic sculpture called the *plotter-scanner*. The custom machine, designed and built by the artist, combines a standard document scanner and a 6'x4' plotter to create a life-sized scanner bed. Surrounding this central installation, a selection of life-size prints from a series of 40 unique works made by Shannon using the *plotter-scanner* demonstrates the machine's role in documenting, digitizing, and reflecting the self. Following its New York run, *Replacement Character* will travel to Paris Photo 2025, marking Shannon's first presentation at the international photography fair. *Replacement Character* will be on view until November 8, 2025, with an opening reception held at the gallery on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 6-9 PM.

Shannon describes the *plotter-scanner* as “a tool of simultaneous surveillance and witness.” While the scanner connotes a clinical and impersonal perspective, the act of making images with the *plotter-scanner* requires total closeness. The resulting prints are expansive and intimate, holding the body at scale, but fractured at their seams. Shannon likens this to being online: expansive presence stretched across windows and gridded feeds, pieced together from individual, upgradeable, fragmented views. Engaging directly with the machine, Shannon’s process constitutes a new form of self-portraiture that is both durational and ephemeral in its observation of, and likeness to, the artist himself.

Drawing on Henri Bergson's philosophies of time, Shannon investigates the contrast between “spatialized time” (the relentless, measured movement of the scanner as a series of points) and “real duration” (our lived, subjective experience of moments as continuous flow). While the machine marches forward in the systematic increments of a 4x5 grid, Shannon moves alongside it, producing a paradoxical image that embodies both evidence and performance.

The exhibition’s title refers to the symbol “◆” used by computers when a character cannot be recognized or rendered. Shannon explores the concept of a chameleon self in the digital age; the artwork translates recognizable human physical presence into data that is both hyper-accurate and distorted. *Replacement Character* thus examines the porous boundaries between humans and the devices that mediate our reality. Shannon’s work prompts viewers to reflect on what it means to be seen: not only by other people, but by our environment, by our technologies, and by the ubiquitous systems we increasingly engage with and inhabit, leaving questions of how increasingly intelligent machines might “read” or interpret us through images.

On Wednesdays throughout the show (10/8, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5), the *plotter-scanner* will run live in a series of events and performances, including readings by the essayists, group scanning events with the public, and a performance lecture by the artist. In addition, private commission appointments will be made available to collectors to make a portrait in collaboration with the artist using the *plotter-scanner*.

The exhibition is accompanied by a collection of essays commissioned by designer David Reinfurt, writer Rex Shannon, artist Maya Man, curator Sofia Garcia, and media theorist Ruby Justice Thelot, offering deeper insight into the project’s themes of image, identity, and the permeable boundaries between virtual and physical realms.

### **ABOUT LUKE SHANNON**

Luke Shannon (b. 2000) is a generative artist working with code and art machines, examining selfhood in systems. He is currently a Steve Jobs Archive Fellow and is represented by ARTXCODE. Luke has exhibited internationally with The Digital (Miami), Tonic (SF, NYC), and Bright Moments (LA, CDMX, Paris, Venice, Berlin). He has held residencies at Art Blocks (Marfa) and Princeton University (NJ), and performed at Dia Beacon (NY).

## **ABOUT HEFT**

Heft is a contemporary gallery in New York City that presents artists who use systems to create meaningful new works. Partnering with a fluid roster of pioneers and groundbreaking emerging artists, the gallery shows a wide spectrum of work, emphasizing inventive uses of traditional materials, memorable experiences, and provocative artworks that are rapidly gaining recognition for advancing the generative art movement. With over 50 projects presented under Heft (formerly Tender), the gallery continues to engage a global collector base and participate in leading international fairs, while presenting monthly exhibitions from its 2500-square-foot Lower East Side location in New York.

## **GALLERY INFO**

Website: <https://heftgallery.com>

Instagram and X: [@heft\\_gallery](#) [@heft\\_gallery](#)

Open Hours: Wed – 11-9pm, Thu-Sat – 11-7pm

Address: [300 Broome St. New York, NY](#)

## **GALLERY CONTACT**

Adam Heft Berninger | Heft Gallery

646-429-8076

[adam@heftgallery.com](mailto:adam@heftgallery.com)

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Lainya Magaña | A&O PR

347-395-4155

[lainya@aopublic.com](mailto:lainya@aopublic.com)