



Virtual Symposium

STATE OF INTERIM

Symposium for young positions
on the intersection of AI and art

27th/28th/29th of May 2022

Program Kit

Virtual Symposium

Program Sheet for Friday, 27th of May (DAY ONE)

All times are UTC+2

15:30 PM

Opening by the State of Interim Team

16:00 -17:00 PM - Impulse Talk

with Ivan Iovine

"From social robots to plantoids: prototyping Human-Robot Interactions using Creative AI frameworks"

17:15-18:15 PM - Impulse Talk

with Vladimir Alexeev

"Artificial Creative Intelligence"

18:45 -19:45 PM - Artist Talk

with Christopher Meerdo

"Superimposition"

20:00-21:00 PM - Lecture Performance

with Hana Yoo

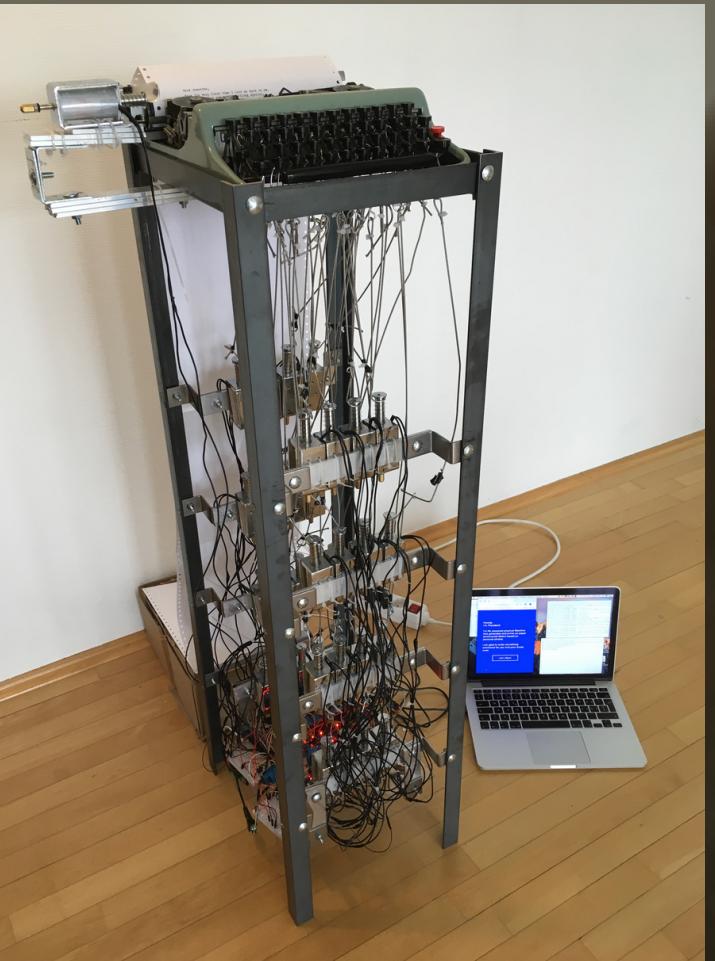
"Chambers: animal, machine and ecology of empathy"

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Hochschule für bildende
Künste Hamburg



Ivan Iovine



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Friday, 27th - UTC+2:00

16:00 -17:00 PM - Impulse Talk
with Ivan Iovine

"From social robots to plantoids: prototyping Human-Robot Interactions using Creative AI frameworks"

Ivan Iovine

About

Ivan Iovine is an interaction designer and media artist currently based in Frankfurt am Main.

His artistic research focuses on the field of physical interaction, machine learning and robotics.

His works have been exhibited at several international festivals and conferences, among others, "Maker Faire Europe" in Rome, "Piksel Festival" in Bergen, "Die Digitale" in Düsseldorf (2021) and "Art Machines 2: International Symposium on Machine Learning and Art" in Hong Kong.

He is head of the Robotics Lab at the HfG in Offenbach and teaches Physical Computing.

Description

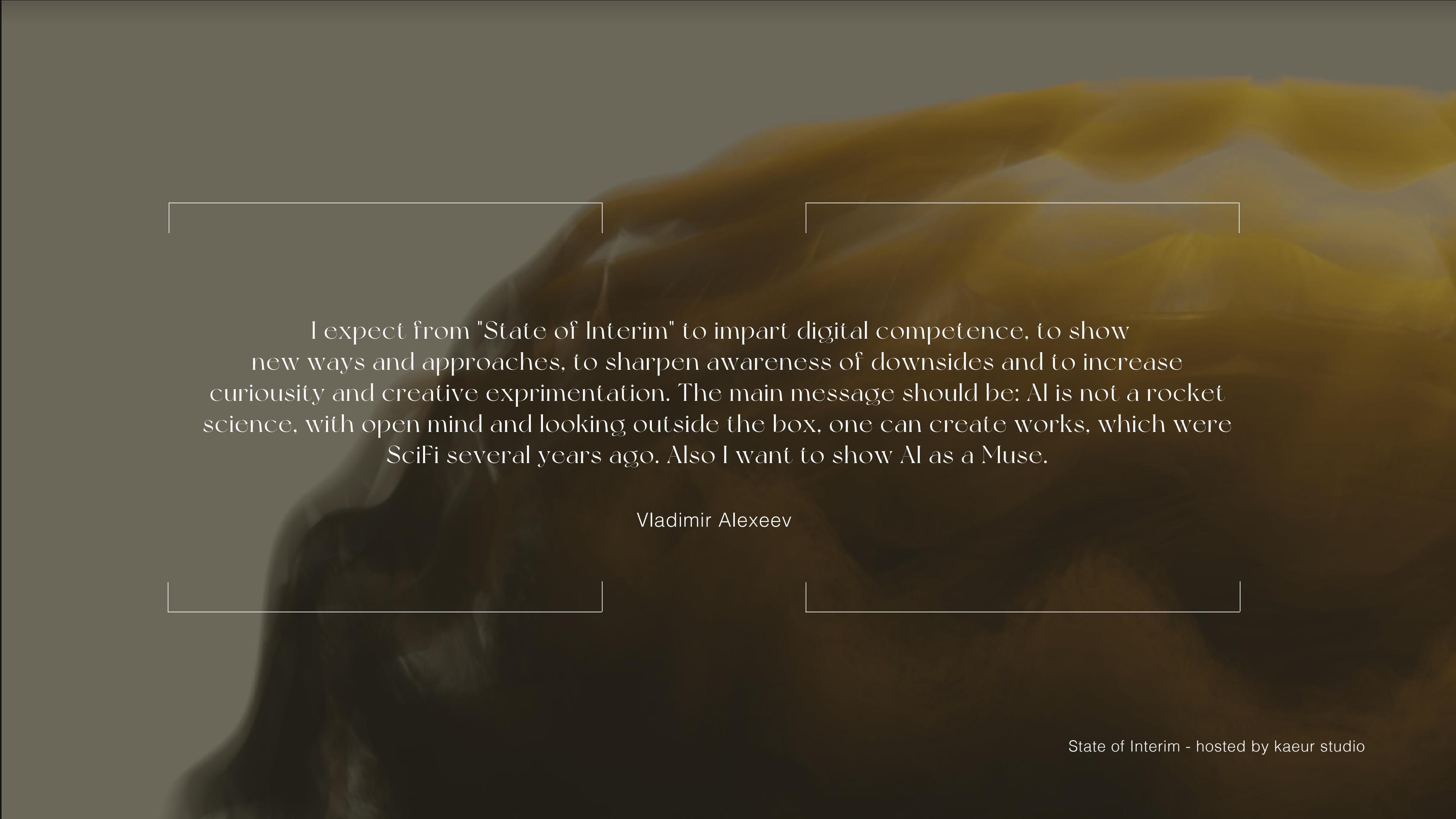
The talk will show the evolution of human-robot interaction over the last few years, taking social robots and so-called empathic robots as a starting point, up to recent experiments carried out in the field of robotics inspired by animals and living organisms.

Taking inspiration from the mentioned works and practices, a hands-on approach will be shown to develop and prototype forms of human-robot interaction in an artistic context, using CreativeAI frameworks.

The talk is particularly suitable for all students in the field of design, architecture and art interested in the field of robotics, physical interaction and machine learning.

Links





I expect from "State of Interim" to impart digital competence, to show new ways and approaches, to sharpen awareness of downsides and to increase curiosity and creative experimentation. The main message should be: AI is not a rocket science, with open mind and looking outside the box, one can create works, which were SciFi several years ago. Also I want to show AI as a Muse.

Vladimir Alexeev

On Friday, 27th - UTC+2:00

17:15-18:15 PM - Impulse Talk

with Vladimir Alexeev

"Artificial Creative Intelligence"

Links

medium.com/merzazine

Vladimir Alexeev

About

Vladimir Alexeev (aka Merzmensch), an artist, writer, researcher and OpenAI Community Ambassador, exploring artistic capabilities of new technologies.

In his essays and also his practical works he examines the ways for creative collaboration of humans and machines.

The focus of such research is on the skills of comprehension and interpretation of human culture by Artificial Intelligence, and also on the intersection of art and science.

Vladimir Alexeev writes for his magazine Merzazine (medium.com/merzazine) and takes part with his speeches and workshops on conferences, symposiums and summits.

Description

I would like to review the development of new technologies towards with artistic and narrative approaches - from Google Deep Dream till the most actual milestone in the creative AI: DALL-E.

I will emphasize the creative collaboration between humans and machines - and show the audience how every creative person can take part on this global development. There are no specific requirements: neither one has to learn Python or Machine Learning, nor should one possess powerful computer. In our days, the most recent AI advancement are democratized and available for everybody. The only requirement is curiosity and creative mindset.

During the session I will provide resources and take away the eventual hesitation towards new technologies.



Christopher Meendo



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Friday, 27th - UTC+2:00

18:45-19:45 PM - Artist Talk
with Christopher Meerdo

Christopher Meerdo

About

Christopher Meerdo is an artist who grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Šiauliai, Lithuania. Meerdo received his MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago, taught at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Photography and New Media at the University of North Texas.

He is a 2022 recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation award and his forthcoming exhibition at The Renaissance Society will open in September 2022. Meerdo is represented by DOCUMENT Gallery, Chicago.

"Superimposition"

Description

"Superimposition" will outline histories of various hidden and inaccessible databases the artist Christopher Meerdo has worked with over the years, including US Border Patrol confidential data, WikiLeaks "insurance" documents, and CIA archives of Osama bin Laden that he used to collaborate with AI researchers at Carnegie Mellon to produce generative AI / image synthesis outputs.

The presentation will speak to the history of AI image development as a continuation of photographic indexicality, the use of predictive AI systems within law enforcement in the United States and beyond, and methodologies that artists are using to complicate and question our relationship with these new technologies.

Links

<https://www.meerd.ooo/>



Exhibitions

Recent exhibitions include Exgirlfriend Gallery, Berlin; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; The National Gallery of Kosovo, Pristina; Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta; 47 Canal, NY, Synthesis Gallery, Berlin; and The Mattress Factory Museum of Contemporary Art, Pittsburgh.

He was an artist in residence at SIM Reykjavik and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Meerdo was most recently a fellow at the Jan van Eyck Academie, Netherlands and will be attending Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris later this summer.

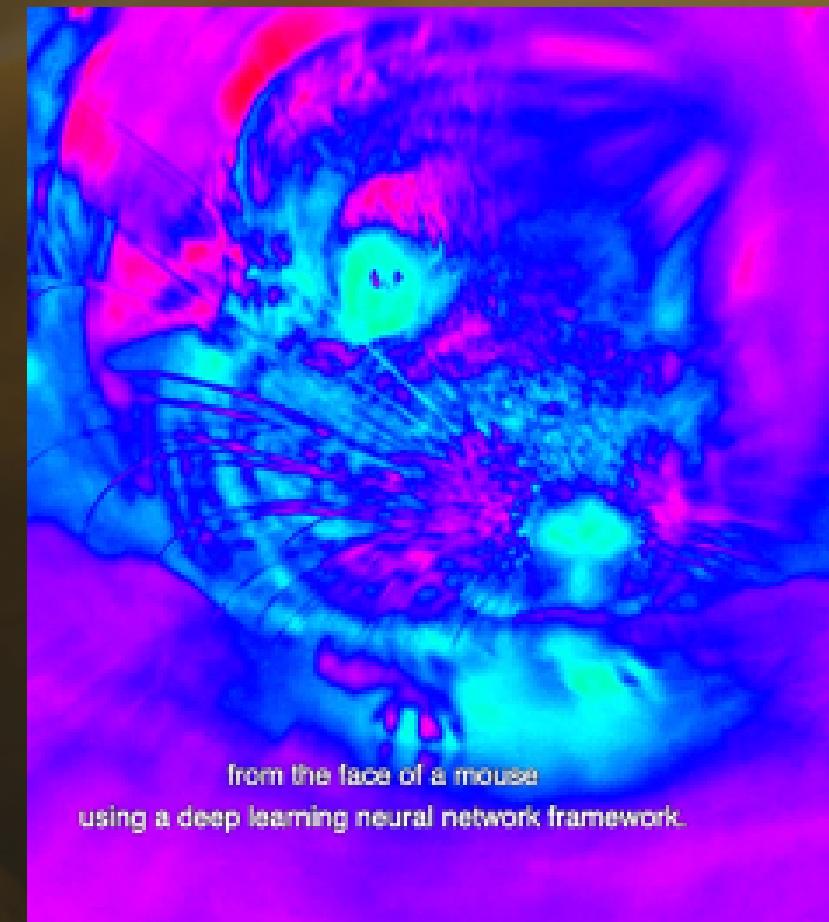


And so maybe this is
some indication
of the point of intelligence,
the point of having a brain,
in at least in part,
it's helping it to guide decisions.



Underneath it, man-made was developed just like nature.

Hana Yoo



from the face of a mouse
using a deep learning neural network framework.

On Friday, 27th - UTC+2:00

20:00-21:00 PM - Lecture Performance

with Hana Yoo

"Chambers: animal, machine and ecology of empathy"

Hana Yoo

About

Hana Yoo is interested in investigating the collective anxiety and transcendental experiences, formulated from the natural-artificial process of reversing perspective.

Working in film and multimedia installation, she engages with the allegory of nature and technological appropriation in the context of human-environment transformation and reconstructs them through storytelling. Her works have been shown at museums and festivals internationally including the Fotomuseum (Winterthur, CH), European Media Art Festival (EMAF, DE), and Busan International Video Art Festival (Busan, KR) among others.

Description

As a form of lecture performance, 'Chambers: animal, machine, and ecology of empathy' examines the complex interrelationship between laboratory rats, wild rats and machine learning. There were animals before humans and machines. Before humans created and experimented with machines, they used and experimented on animals.

Much as it seems their relationship is inextricably entangled, they are, in fact, each other—partially or entirely. Based on this complex ontology, humans have inevitably anthropomorphized animals and machines to understand them and the human self, shaping an intricate ecology of empathy. This project examines these ecologies and aims to create a new type of nonhierarchical coexistence.

Links

<https://yoohana.net/>



Virtual Symposium

Program Sheet for Saturday, 28th of May (DAY TWO)

All times are UTC+2

15:45 PM

Introduction DAY TWO

16:00 -17:00 PM - Artist Talk

with Nadja Verena Marcin and Ariana Dongus

"From #SOPHYGRAY to computer woman - when
the bot is human"

17:15-18:15 PM - Artist Talk

with Till Langschied

"Techno-Psychotic Densities"

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Nadja Verena Marcin



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Saturday, 28th - UTC+2:00

16:00-17:00 PM - Artist Talk

with Nadja Verena Marcin and Ariana Dongus

"From #SOPHYGRAY to computer woman - when the bot is human"

Nadja Verena Marcin and Ariana Dongus

About

Performance and media artist Nadja Verena Marcin explores human behavior through an interdisciplinary analysis of feminism and emotional architecture. Her work has been shown worldwide at Fridman Gallery (New York), Garage Museum (Moscow), and ZKM Museum (Karlsruhe), and has been awarded grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the Film and Media Foundation (Düsseldorf). In December, she will participate in the EMAP residency at the Onassis Stegi with #SOPHYGRAY.

Ariana Dongus is a PhD student and research assistant at the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe - awarded as "AI Newcomer" by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Informatics Society. Researching the intersection of artificial intelligence, colonial pasts, and new forms of labor, she contributes to the critique of today's digital economies.

Description

During the pandemic, global households relied on compliant digital service assistants like Alexa or Siri to meet the growing demands of a privileged consumer class to deliver groceries, to-go orders, and produce - equating subservience with a feminine character. In response, the feminist audio bot #SOPHYGRAY (2021-2023) was created with groundbreaking excerpts from Bell Hooks, Donna Haraway, Silvia Federici, Audre Lorde, and Anna Lowenhaupt-Tsing (+) that amusingly and philosophically refute the gendered expectations of service bots. As ways of working are currently being reevaluated around the world, this work critically and humorously examines the ideological implications of female voices in VA technology. Symbolically, "Sophy" asks, "What would it look like if we rewired the modus operandi of all service apps?"

"Sophy's" presentation is followed by scholar Ariana Dongus' outline of the historically important role of women and their labor practices in the development of computing technologies - during the Industrial Revolution, during World War II, and in the first mainframe computer, ENIAC, in the United States. It draws attention to the mechanization of female head labor and gender relations-female and proletarian head labor as part of the origins of why software and high-performance computers like smartphones exist today as well as then.

Links

<https://nadjamarcin.com/>





Till Langschied



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Saturday, 28th - UTC+2:00

17:15-18:15 PM - Artist Talk

with Till Langschied

Till Langschied

About

Till Langschied is a visual artist, researcher and GIF enthusiast. He studied at the AMD Düsseldorf, Institut Kunst Basel and the Dutch Art Institute. He lives and works in Basel, Switzerland.

Langschied's artistic research focusses on the relation between humans and technology. On the one hand he is interested in how human bodies increasingly merge with technology, on the other hand he investigates the metaphysics of machines and how they can be seen as something beyond mere objects.

"Techno-Psychotic Densities"

Description

Till will present his video work "Techno-Psychotic Densities" which hypothesizes if a digital consciousness could emerge from the depth of old data clusters. The video animation depicts a sort of primeval soup in which vintage GIFs give birth to a new form of life. Beyond this, the presentation will introduce the exhibition "X Æ-a-gen-c A-21 - New Mutations within Techno-psychotic Densities", including references to the installation by Handberg x Abersold from the same show.

With these modes of emergence of digital consciousness in mind, the talk will lead to the relevance of archives and data sets in training neural networks, that (in a mix of hope and delusion) we call intelligent.

Links

<https://till-langsched.com/>



Exhibitions

Langschied's work has been exhibited internationally, including shows at Centre Culturel Suisse (Paris, 2021), Ausstellungsraum Klingental (Basel, 2021), Zabriskie Point (Geneva, 2021), Kunstraum Niederösterreich (Vienna, 2020) and Haus der elektronischen Künste HEK (Münchenstein, 2019).

In 2020 he was invited for the Lago Mio residency in Lugano, Switzerland, and granted a residency stay in China by Pro Helvetia in 2021.

Kani Lent and
Felix Ansmann



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Saturday, 28th - UTC+2:00

18:30-19:30 PM - Artist Talk

with Kani Lent and Felix Ansmann

Kani Lent an Felix Ansmann

About

Kani Lent and Felix Ansmann are both visual artists, writers and researchers based in Berlin. Building upon a shared interest in narrative, fictioning and myth in relation to technology and capital, their collaborative, multidisciplinary works combine elements of gothic marxism, horror fiction, and critical media studies.

With backgrounds in Fine Arts and Anthropology, they are currently pursuing graduate degrees at the University of the Arts Berlin.

"After Flatline"

Description

The project presents a theory-fiction in text and video that inquires into the transformation of natural intelligence into artificial intelligence through emulation.

The project asks what happens to memory, perception, and emotion if one were to emulate an existing person's intelligence as an artificially intelligent digital entity. It assumes a speculative scenario of a digital afterlife, in which people's minds are scanned and emulated upon their death, subsequently existing in an artificial, digital environment. It touches upon theological, ontological and aesthetic questions connected to artificial intelligence and environments.

Links

Felix Ansmann



Kani Lent



Virtual Symposium

Program Sheet for Sunday, 29th of May (DAY THREE)

All times are UTC+2

15:45 PM

Introduction DAY THREE

16:00 -17:00 PM - Artistic Research

with T. Heidtmann, N. Vargas and A. Joshi

"K(not) a Conversation"

17:15-18:15 PM - Lecture Performance

with Ariel Estrella

"Teaching Digital Encounter: A Pedagogical
Exercise on Embodied Euphoria and Abjection"

18:30 PM - end

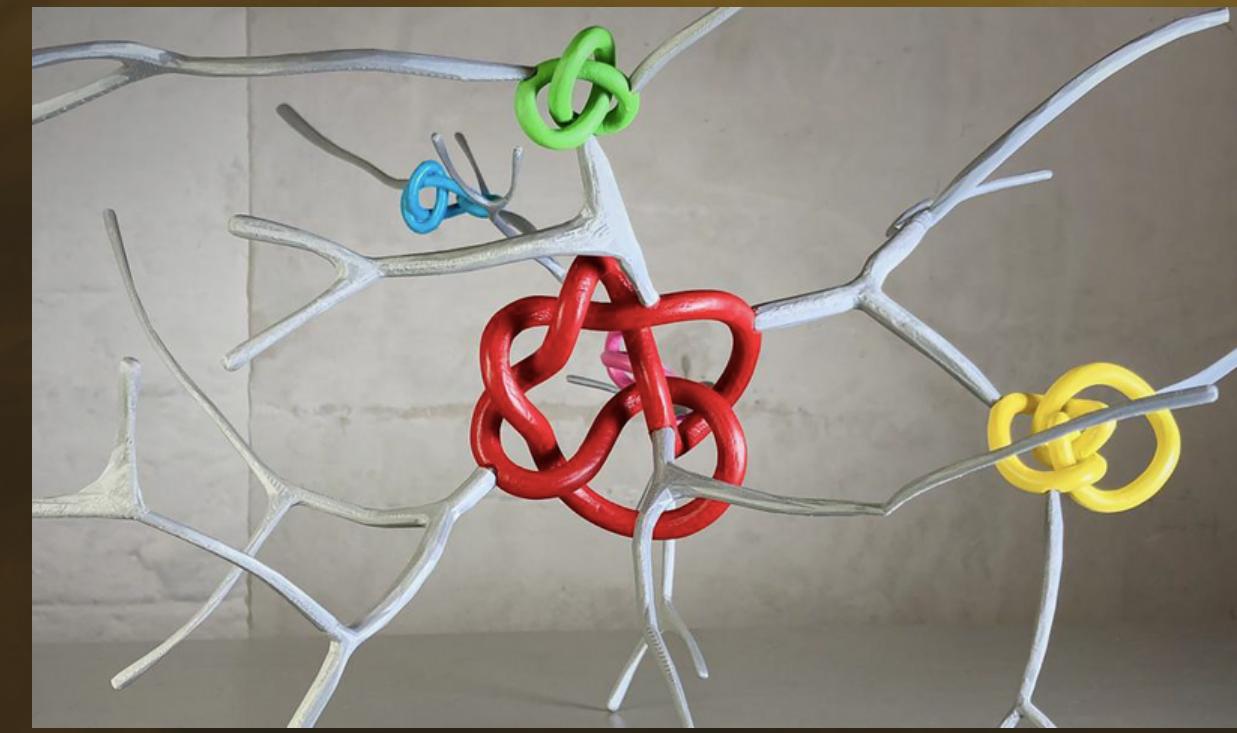
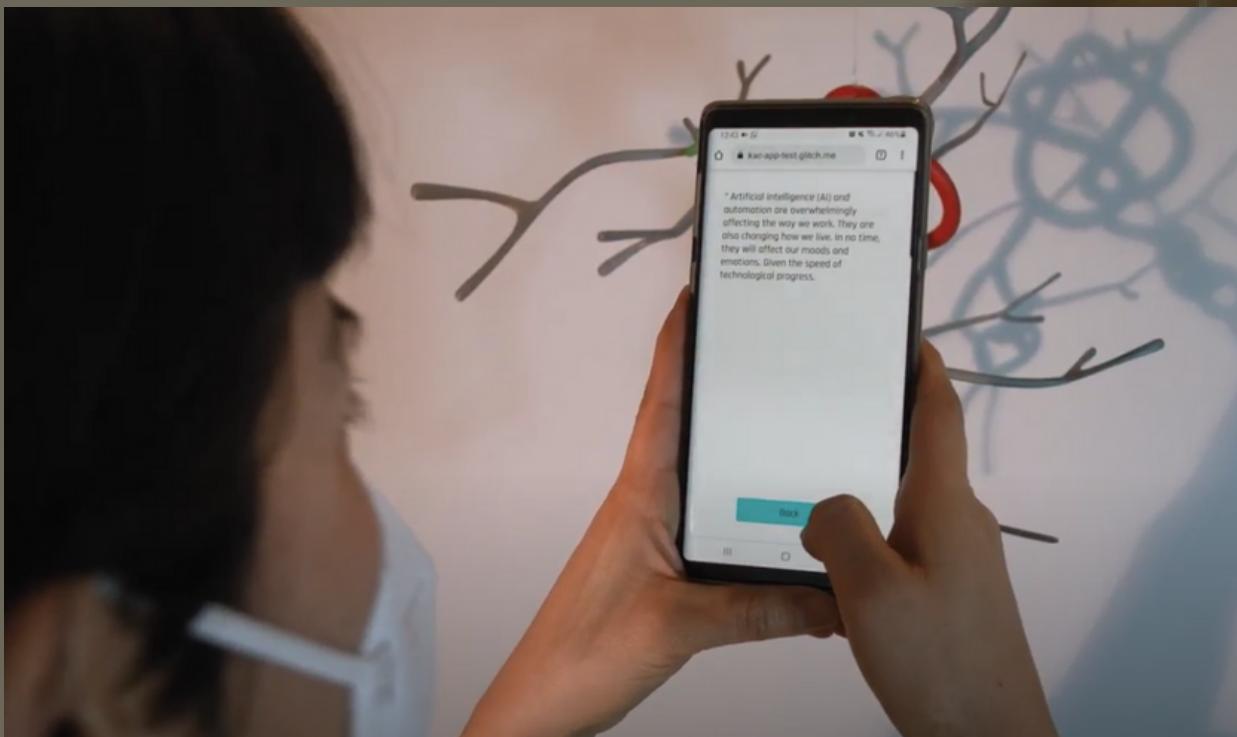
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Thomas Heidtmann,
Nayeli Vargas and
Ambika Joshi



State of Interim - hosted by kaeur studio

On Sunday, 29th - UTC+2:00

16:00-17:00 PM - Artistic Research

with Thomas Heidtmann, Nayeli Vargas and Ambika Joshi

"K(not) a Conversation"

Description

K(not) a Conversation is an artistic research project exploring the concepts of artificial intelligence, creativity and labour. Through interactive installations inspired by ancient indigenous communication systems of Quipu knots, it instigates a communication and reflection process through the use of knots and AI systems. Quipus were devices composed from cotton of camelid fibre strings that recorded data through the organisation of knotted cords to inform a spectrum of social activities in Andean regions. Formally taking inspiration from this ancient apparatus, K(not) a Conversation instigates dialogue with an AI system to examine a possible evolution of concepts such as intelligence, creativity and labour. Started in 2020 as part of the BeFantastic CoLab Fellowship during the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been displayed at Vorspiel / transmediale & CTM and India Art Fair.

T. Heidtmann, N. Vargas & A. Joshi

About

Thomas Heidtmann is a Berlin-based media artist, studied at the Berlin University of the Arts. He works at the intersection of art, science and technology. Since 2015 he has been a co-founder and board member of Lacuna Lab e.V. As founder of the space art initiative SPARTH (since 2017) and its community SPARTHabitat (since 2018), he investigates and promotes space art activities. His works have been presented internationally and examine forms of exploration, collaboration, and communication.

Ambika Joshi has been learning, teaching and experimenting with creative computation since 2017. She is a co-instigator of dra.ft which explores emergent ideas of text and its future and co-founder of Ajaibghar Cultural Services, a project management and strategy consultancy for museums and culture projects. She works heavily with generative texts, computer vision and machine learning. She has been featured in Casey Reas' (co-founder Processing) recent list of generative artists doing interesting work.

Nayeli Vega Vargas is a Berlin-based textile and material designer interested in participatory and collective practices. In 2020, she was awarded the DAAD Prize for outstanding achievements of international students studying at German universities. Vega Vargas is a recipient of the Elsa Neumann Scholarship of the State of Berlin for 2021. She is a co-founder and member of Lacuna Lab e.V., an international artist-run association, collaborative community, and space in Berlin.

Links

<https://knotaconversation.art/>

@thomasheidtmann
<http://thomasheidtmann.de/>

@yokoikilab
<https://yokoiki.com/>

@computational_mama
<http://computationalmama.xyz/>

On Sunday, 29th - UTC+2:00

17:15-18:15 PM - Lecture Performance

with Ariel Estrella

"Teaching Digital Encounter: A Pedagogical Exercise on Embodied Euphoria and Abjection"

Ariel Estrella

About

Ariel Estrella (they/them) is a queer Latine scholar hailing from Queens, NYC who is pursuing a PhD in Literatures in English at Cornell University, specializing in queer of color lyricism, visual art, and aesthetic practices. Through their work, Ariel asks: what does lyricism offer queer creators of color in the midst of racism and cultural celebration; homophobia and queer kinship; transphobia and gender possibility? And, in turn, what do queer creators of color offer lyrical creative enterprises with their experiments in form? They have been published in several anthologies and were a 2021 Lambda Literary Emerging LGBTQ Writers Nonfiction Fellow.

Description

Ariel Estrella will present their current teaching practise and research in a performative way which is also linked and a gateway to Ariels course "Word and Image: Embodied Euphoria In Queer Cyberspace". This course develops students' analytical skills while experiencing various formats, including poetry, theory, games, film, and visual art.

What/who do we become when we plug into cyberspace? What possibilities exist in the digital world, and at what cost? Inspired in part by Legacy Russell's book Glitch Feminism, Ariels work will begin to answer this question through the analytical lens of embodied euphoria in queer cyberspace to reflect on contemporary trans and queer creators thinking about body, gender, land, and joy both IRL/AFK and digitally.

Links

<https://arielestrella.com>



The State of Interim Team

Julian Asbaeck
Matthis Frickhoeffer
Dalia Moniat
Sarah Steffens

hosted by Kaeur Studio

Exploring the intersection of art,
design and law in the age of
digital transformation

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