

EUROPEAN DIGITAL DEAL

Residencies

CHALLENGES

Open Call for Artist Residencies

October 2023



This project has been co-funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme under grant agreement No 101100036. Views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) can be held responsible for them.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS





Fake News at Deep Space, Ars Electronica Center
Photo Credit: Ars Electronica, Robert Bauernhansl
Photo in the background by Lucas Jackson_Reuters



WHAT'S NEW/S?

Journalistic truth in the age of its algorithmic (re)production, dissemination and consumption.

Hosted by  **ARS ELECTRONICA**
Art, Technology & Society

The information age has redefined the role of traditional journalism and media outlets, challenged their authority and dissolved their monopoly on the spread of information. The now widespread algorithmic production, dissemination and consumption of news cast doubt on the media's ability to support democratic processes by preparing citizens to participate in them.

Resources

Keywords

mis-/disinformation
fake news
deep fakes
algorithmic journalism
forensic journalism
open-source investigative journalism

- [Media Futures](#)
- [Posttruth, Truthiness, and Alternative Facts: Information Behavior and Critical Information Consumption for a New Age](#), by Nicole A. Cooke
- [Seeing without knowing: Limitations of the transparency ideal and its application to algorithmic accountability](#), by Mike Ananny and Kate Crawford
- [Communication: The medium is not the message](#), by Paul Beynon-Davies
- [Ethical Challenges of Algorithmic Journalism](#), by Konstantin Nicholas Dörr & Katharina Hollnbuchner
- [Visual Mis- and Disinformation, Social Media, and Democracy](#), by Viorela Dan, Britt Paris, Joan Donovan, Michael Hameleers, Jon Roozenbeek, Sander van der Linden, and Christian von Sikorski
- [Algorithms in the newsroom? News readers' perceived credibility and selection of automated journalism](#), by Anja Wölker and Thomas E Powell



In Event of Moon Disaster / Halsey Burgund (US), Francesca Panetta (GB)
Photo Credit Tom Mesic

Challenge

Today's media ecologies are complicated by the rapid development of new technologies. Whether the medium is the message (McLuhan, 1968) or not, it certainly alters its production, delivery and reception.

The algorithmic logic underlying media ecologies remains invisible and incomprehensible, yet its effects surface everywhere, from the challenges posed to the journalistic profession and its practices to challenges posed to the public - its access to information, exposure to mis- and disinformation, and their real-world effects on democracies. It raises a new set of thorny ethical, political and societal issues, complicated by the *dynamic* evolution of new technologies and the risks that come with it.

As part of this residency, artists are invited to break down the (digital) architecture of (social) media platforms, uncover the implications of algorithmic journalism, the risks of mis- and disinformation or reverse engineer the mechanisms that aid its spread to suggest subversive ways in which new technologies, combined with investigative/forensic/open-source journalism can result in a hybrid new media architecture that aligns the use of technology with ethical journalistic practices.

The residency is an opportunity to design better technologies, raise public awareness, and find ways to distinguish between forms of content, all towards healthy media ecologies that serve democracies and allow space for freedom of speech without the risk to the very democratic principles that guarantee this freedom.

Residency

Ars Electronica will activate its extensive network of partners to meet the needs of the artist(s)-in-residence. We aim to engage partners with diverse expertise and areas of interest, to support the artist(s) both with the use of technologies and in widening their understanding of the media landscape.

The external partnerships remain open for the time being to allow for the selection of a residency project without limitations. Once the project has been selected, residency artist(s) will be consulted, and a joint decision will be made with regard to the partners that best fit the project's needs.

The artist(s) will have access to the Ars Electronica facilities, including the FutureLab, our R&D division, and the Ars Electronica Center. Their presence in Linz or at the facilities of external partners is foreseen but will be mutually agreed upon between Ars Electronica and the artist(s).

The outcome of the residency will be showcased at Ars Electronica Festival 2025. The project presentation format (exhibition, workshop, etc.) will be discussed and decided upon together with the artist(s).



Photo Credit Vladimir Janić / CPN

SILVER-SURFERS' TWILIGHT

Digital exclusion of elders

Hosted by



CENTER FOR
THE
PROMOTION
OF SCIENCE

As highlighted in numerous reports, the digital divide in Serbia is influenced by factors such as poverty, living in rural areas, social exclusion, and old age, with 55% of the elderly population having never used a computer. Additionally, women over the age of 65 face a higher risk of being excluded from the digital realm.

Keywords

digital exclusion
seniors/elders
silver-surfers
digital divide
digital journey

Resources

- [Report on Digital Inclusion in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2014–2018 \(2019\).](#)
- [Ageing and Digital Inclusion – Baseline Study with Recommendations \(2019\).](#)
- [Use of the ICT solutions in the Republic of Serbia \(2021, Serbian only\).](#)
- [Ageing in the digital era – UNECE highlights key actions to ensure digital inclusion of older persons \(2021\).](#)
- [UNIDOP: “Digital Equity for All Ages” \(2021\).](#)
- [Lauren Withycombe Keeler, Michael J. Bernstein: The future of aging in smart environments: Four scenarios of the United States in 2050 \(2021\).](#)
- [Em. Prof. Dr. An Hermans: The Digital Era? Also My Era! \(2022\).](#)
- [Gil, Henrique: The elderly and the digital inclusion: A brief reference to the initiatives of the European union and Portugal \(2019\).](#)
- [Mubarak F, Suomi R: Elderly Forgotten? Digital Exclusion in the Information Age and the Rising Grey Digital Divide \(2022\).](#)
- [Improving the well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation: Council adopts conclusions](#)
- [AGE Platform Europe: Growing Old in the Digital World](#)

Serbia is among the many countries experiencing a growing elderly population and an overall declining population. In recent years, the proportion of individuals aged 65+ has increased from 17.3% in 2011 to 21.3% in 2021. This trend is also identified in the EU, with the European Parliament predicting that one-third of residents will be over 65 by 2070.

In today's increasingly digital world, many older and vulnerable individuals feel isolated as essential services and basic communications move online. As companies, media and government departments transition their services online to reduce costs and accelerate communications, millions of people are left behind. Older adults often respond to technological advancements with scepticism and intimidation. In most cases, they lack basic digital skills to navigate through or explore digital world(s). Their media exclusion further affects their position, creating a sense of invisibility or even ignorance towards their bare existence.

Conversely, some emerging technologies aim at the elderly population as the main user group. Examples are various assistive systems designed either specifically for elderly people or intended to treat disorders mainly affecting the elderly population. However, there are concerns that technology could further reduce human interaction and hands-on care.

While technology holds potential benefits for the safety of older individuals and provides relief for caregivers, questions regarding accuracy, privacy, freedom, and the future we envision for our elders have been raised. AI models, often trained on databases of previous subjects' behaviour, may not adequately represent all people or situations. Well-documented biases could be expected here as well.

Achieving digital inclusion for the elderly involves challenging stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination while also recognising their right to independence.

The CPN looks for an interdisciplinary assessment of the subject in Serbia, allowing artistic interpretation of the topic, relying on available data, personal testimonies of senior citizens, existing results from social, medical and technical research, etc. The CPN wants to curate and produce one investigative project that can use the current situation as a starting point or metaphor towards analysing conditions of the modern, digital world and/or role, position and perspective assigned to our elders in this context. The theme itself possesses significant public importance, so its treatment in this context will hopefully add valuable insights and foster necessary debate.

For exploring, elaborating and reinterpreting digital barriers and obstacles of the elders' digital journeys, the CPN will engage its resources, relevant local entities, related researchers and other stakeholders. This may include:

- CPN's Science Club Belgrade within the Network of Science Clubs (15 units throughout the country)
- CPN's Makerspace
- national and local faculties and research institutes (incl. its expert group members' affiliated entities: Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Traffic Engineering, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Management)
- non-profit, NGO and CSO organisations, like the Public Policy Research Centre, Partners Serbia, SHARE Foundation, Serbia AI Society
- media organisations, including the national broadcasting company (RTS)
- independent and individual researchers.

The CPN team will actively lead and curate the process, providing the necessary support and establishing connections with the local community.



Photo Credit The Culture Yard, Click



NEW IMAGINARIES

Challenging the dilemma between the desire for new inclusive structures and biased, exclusionary tools and algorithms.

Hosted by

**KULTUR
VERFTET**
THE CULTURE
YARD

As we progress towards a future characterized by new technological advancements, we are faced with an inherent dilemma: the integration of emerging technologies with the entrenched biases of past paradigms. The aspiration to dismantle old power structures and usher in a more equitable world is often at odds with the innate predispositions embedded in our tools (tech). The revolutionary rise of algorithms, while promising transformative potential, often draws from datasets reflecting yesterday's biased thinking. Thus, the question emerges: How can we harness the power of modern tech to genuinely reimagine power dynamics, without perpetuating the very inequities we seek to overcome? How can art help make the invisible visible by making the logic by which tech is developed more transparent? And how can artists reclaim/repurpose tech in new, empowering ways?

Keywords

diversity & inclusion
algorithms
sustainability
transparency
biases
alternatives
new infrastructures
reclaiming

Resources

- [Barbara Gruber - How artists are hacking bias in algorithms](#)
- [Zachary Small - Black Artists Say A.I. Shows Bias, With Algorithms Erasing Their History](#)
- [Dr. Ramon Amaro - Machine Diagnosis](#)
- [Legacy Russell and Lynn Hershman Leeson - Glitch Feminism](#)



Photo Credit: The Culture Yard, Click

Challenge

We aim to facilitate a residency with one or more artists who, inspired by our problem statement, will experiment across genres and formats. The goal is to create new perspectives and stimulate discussion and conversation within both national art circles and the local context.

Our focus isn't on completed works, but instead we are interested in experimental artistic processes that can lead to public conversations, performances, workshops, and more. We envision these processes involving a variety of individuals, such as scientists, politicians, artists, opinion leaders, and citizens.

We don't have requirements for a specific form of expression or genre. However, we find significant value in cross-disciplinary work, such as when performative elements are blended with visual art or other formats.

Residency

The residency will take place at Kulturværftet, a culture centre located in the medium-sized Danish city of Helsingør, surrounded by beautiful water and forests. It is situated four kilometres from Sweden by ferry and 35 kilometres from Copenhagen by train.

In our culture house, we regularly host large and small concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions, lectures, and more. We have facilities that include various-sized stages, rooms, and human resources such as technicians, chefs, editors, graphic designers, and more who can support the residency. Within our network, we have a wide range of local and national actors in the fields of art, knowledge, and opinion-making, whom we want the resident to interact with to varying degrees.

Thus, we aim for the residency to make an impact both locally and nationally.



Photo Credit Pedro Angula



TECHNO-ANXIETY & THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Hosted by **etopia_10** and **FZC** FUNDACIÓN ZARAGOZA
CONOCIMIENTO

The dizzying speed at which the ever-evolving tech field launches new products and services leaves behind even those working in it. This is particularly evident with AI and deep learning diffusion models. In the past few months, we have witnessed tech company owners and academics alike calling for a moratorium in the development and deployment of AI. They have urged us to pause and evaluate the implications of its usage on a larger scale. Keeping pace with technological advancements is becoming an immense task. We can observe the digital divide growing larger and faster than ever before. All of this contributes to a state of anxiety among members of our society, as they struggle to keep up.

Keywords

paralysis
fear
extremism
tech field
digital divide

Resources

- [Free You Project](#)
- [Art and Artificial Intelligence](#) by ETOPIA and LABoral
- [Cross between techno-fatigue and techno-anxiety](#)
- [Colton, Simon et al. "On the Machine Condition and its Creative Expression." International Conference on Innovative Computing and Cloud Computing \(2020\).](#)



Photo Credit: Julian Fallas

Challenge

"Techno-anxiety and the digital divide" is a multidisciplinary challenge aimed at exploring the intersection of technology, anxiety, and social inequality. We want the selected artistic project to examine the impact of rapid technological advancements on individuals, society and the environment, particularly in relation to anxiety and the growing gap between those who have access to and can effectively navigate technology and those who do not.

In this cross-disciplinary collaboration, we anticipate the involvement of artists, technologists, scientists, and psychologists. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we aim to deepen our understanding of the complex relationship between technology and anxiety and its implications for social equity.

The project's vision is to foster dialogue and raise awareness about the challenges posed by the digital divide and the psychological impact of technological advancements. Through artistic expressions and research, we hope to shed light on the experiences of individuals who feel overwhelmed or left behind in the face of rapid technological changes.

Ultimately, the project aims to provoke critical discussions, inspire societal change, and contribute to a future where technology is harnessed in a way that promotes inclusivity, well-being, and a balanced relationship with the digital world.

Residency

Etopia Center for Art and Technology fosters exploration, collaboration, and artistic growth. The residency provides a dynamic environment for artists from diverse disciplines to interact and exchange ideas in its 36 rooms. The center features cutting-edge amenities, including the New Media Lab, a spacious 400m² area dedicated to experimentation across performing arts and interactive installations.

The captivating Media Facade serves as an artistic canvas for visual content. Fabrication and audio laboratories, exhibition spaces, and incubators encourage artists to push creative boundaries.

In the upcoming year, Etopia will focus on media literacy and data exploration. Workshops and seminars will deepen understanding of information presentation, consumption, and manipulation in the digital age, nurturing critical thinking. We promote exchanges between residents from FZC and Laboral.

The selected project will interact with an expert group comprising academics in computational creativity, AI and energy experts, sociologists, and curators. We seek fresh approaches to challenges and projects that offer new perspectives and delve into conceptual depths. Coherence between objectives and artistic means is encouraged. Interaction with audiences is also essential.

Etopia Center for Art and Technology is a hub that empowers artists to create projects with innovative interactions, transforming art's potential impact on society.



ARTIFICIAL EMPATHY

Hosted by **GLUON** Art Research Education

Surveillance of public spaces is happening everywhere - whether you pass a border, attend a demonstration surveyed by flying drones, or ring a smart doorbell - there's a constant risk that your movements, bodies, faces, and voices are being captured and analyzed. Artificial Empathy investigates the ubiquitous surveillance in the city where human bodies, voices and emotions are continuously tracked and analyzed.

Keywords

emotion AI
surveillance
biometric
empathy

Resources

- [Human Rights Liga](#)
- [Radix](#)
- [Knowledge Centra Data & AI](#)
- [Protect my face](#) (only in Dutch & French)



Challenge

Artificial Empathy questions and addresses the desirability and value of tools of control in the city of Brussels.

While there are real benefits to using surveillance technologies for public safety and security, their pervasiveness, intrusiveness, and susceptibility to error give rise to a number of fundamental rights concerns regarding gender and race biases and violations of the right to data protection and privacy. But what are these technologies? Why are they problematic? Why, among other things, do they make specific minority populations particularly vulnerable? What are the socio-political consequences of using algorithms that reduce citizens to a digital barcode and that make assumptions about your identity based on how you look, move and talk?

During this residency, we invite artists to investigate how surveillance tools can be used in alternative ways that stimulate affection and empathy. Emotion recognition has been framed by many as a natural next step in the evolution of AI-powered surveillance, leading to the integration of emotion recognition in places where biometric surveillance has already been implemented. Will the potential of AI systems lead to artificial empathy by creating machines that can sense and respond to human emotions? Overall is it desirable that emotions are machine-readable? Given the ambiguous nature of emotion and subjective life, do such technologies make sense? *Artificial Empathy* is not merely an artistic pursuit but a societal imperative for, in the digital city, the line between surveillance and emancipation is becoming as thin as a whisper.

Residency

During the residency, the artist will be supported by a group of local and international experts from the field of artificial intelligence, social sciences, human rights and the Arts. The main residency partner is Radix, a Brussels-based company specialising in the design and development of human-centred AI solutions.

Through Radix, the selected artist will get access to expertise, lab facilities and technologies in the field of AI-powered biometric technology. In the development of the project, the artist will be able to collaborate with the experts from Radix and use the hardware, software and facilities of Radix to conduct experiments. The artist is also supported by the 1) Knowledge Centre Data & Society offering strong expertise on legal, ethical and societal aspects of artificial intelligence and data-driven applications and 2) Liga voor Mensenrechten (Human Right League), a non-for-profit human rights organisation that seeks to inspire policy and raise awareness about human rights.

We are looking for artists who, in their practice, deal with ethical issues surrounding data & AI. The artist is expected to travel to the region to attend workshops, events, and meetings or conduct field research at least six times during the residency. The artist should deliver and produce a presentable outcome of the residency to be included in exhibitions.



Photo Credit: Kersnikova and Midjourney AI



HYBRID INTELLIGENCE



Hosted by

KERSNIKOVA

In a post-anthropocentric world, we seek to mitigate the impact of human activity on the environment and thus also recognise and integrate the benefits of non-human intelligence. Imagine hybrid interactions among bio and cyber organisms that would enable them to take care of the wellbeing of bio and to support the understanding and developing of cyber. Better, envision them functioning as one inseparable hybrid intelligence.

Keywords

hybrid intelligence
plant-animal-machine intercognition
plant-animal-AI interface
sensing technology
robotization

Resources

- [Electrome & Cognition Modes in Plants: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Eco-Sensitiveness of the World by Marc-Williams Debono](#)
- [Brilliant Green: The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence, by Stefano Mancuso and Alessandra Viola](#)
- [How Scientists Are Using AI to Talk to Animals by Sophie Bushwick](#)
- [The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants by Karen Bakker](#)
- [StellaVerde – Inspirational prototype of a precision garden as a possible scenario for sustainable food production](#)

Challenge



Imagining and engineering hybrid intelligence with connecting biological phenomena to technological processes, be it algorithms, AI, cyber beings, robots or any other imaginable man-made form, would help overcome the present division which humans have created between bio- and technosphere. The gap created can be seen on many levels and calls for a creative mind to invent a smaller or larger scale hybrid exchange of information and contribute to the emergence of new meanings. We are interested in a wide range of imagined forms which would grasp the emerging hybrid intelligence and, in various ways, point towards the interconnectedness of plants, animals and technological applications, algorithms and entities.

Making sense of the big data from the environment and remote sensing with satellites, using this data for the more balanced coexistence of cities and nature, for better interaction with the natural world, using technology to support forests, parks, organisms and landscapes, to reduce our climate impact – all these areas offer a wide range of possibilities for creative solutions. The data stream from plants, animals or climate can be used to determine the impact of human agency on the environment and changing it for the better can be one possible objective of the residency. Translating the data stream and creating new meanings and new interactions within an art installation is a great way of addressing this challenge.

Robots being sensitized to the well-being of plants could lead to a possible interaction in the field of precision farming to produce food in urban areas. This is a specialized but important field for employing hybrid intelligence and deep dive into sensing technology. The information gained with the processing of biological neural structures, minibrains or organisms like fungi or slime mould can be connected to algorithmic processes and is also an example of hybrid intelligence.

If human intelligence shapes various aspects of human society, technology and media, which

are representations of reality, a simulacrum – we are interested in other forms of non-human intelligence and what its expression could be. We can approach those other forms of intelligence with the help of our advanced technology.

Residency



The artist will have access to working spaces and all three Kersnikova laboratories: BioTehna wetlab, Vivarium for plants, animals and robots, and Rampa mechatronic hackerspace with the support of an experienced production and curatorial team.

The resident will have the opportunity to work with partners among the research institutes that we regularly cooperate with - Jožef Stefan Institute, the Faculty for Computer and Information Science, the National Institute of Chemistry, the Biotechnical Faculty (all in Ljubljana) and other research institutions. Depending on a close thematic relation to food production, the artist can work in Kersnikova's food lab in Nova Gorica and/or the University of Nova Gorica research departments.

The artist is expected to work in close contact with the Kersnikova team during a nine-month residency, as well as to visit the host five times or have a prolonged stay and work in the Kersnikova laboratories. Local experts from the fields of innovation, democratic digitalisation, environmental science and possibly on the artist's specific interest will be available. The artist will be expected to present her/his project on several occasions to local groups of stakeholders. Daring, futuristic and ambitious artistic solutions are encouraged. The final outcome, which should be an innovation prototype or an artistic installation, will be exhibited at Kapelica Gallery and considered for exhibition at partner institutions.



Photo Credit Situation Room, hackitectura.net

DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

Hosted by **laboral**
Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial

Digital environments increasingly influence and determine the forms of socialisation in contemporary life, as they constitute spaces for communication, meeting and interaction. This challenge will explore new ways in which public administration, understood as a collective form of organisation for the common good, can offer meeting and socialising points that innovatively connect online and offline spaces to produce meaningful social ties.

Keywords

public administration
social engagement
democracy
hybrid

Resources

- [Digital Planet: state of digital inclusion in the world](#)
- [Reimagining Digital Public Spaces and Artificial Intelligence for Deep Cooperation](#)
- [Social infrastructure and the public life of cities: Studying urban sociality and public spaces](#)
- [Governing digital societies: Private platforms, public values,](#)
- [José van Dijck, Computer Law & Security Review](#)
- [Designing Co-Creative AI for Public Spaces](#)
- [The Key to Happiness Might Be as Simple as a Library or a Park](#)
- [Sherry Turkle's 'Reclaiming Conversation'](#)
- [And. Phenomenology of the End, Franco "Bifo" Berardi](#)



Photo Credit Situation Room, hackitectura.net

Challenge

Residency

Despite the great communicative possibilities offered by digital technologies, the forms of socialisation through them are mainly developed on private platforms that design these environments according to corporate and profit-making interests. On the other hand, the intensification of forms of telecommunication and remote work generate new forms of exclusion and digital divides and favour increasingly individual dynamics that undermine community ties.

In this context, public administration must actively work to provide spaces and forms of encounter that promote community life and guarantee citizens the right to socialise in non-commercial and non-marketable environments, both offline and online.

This challenge explores innovative ways in which public administration can promote the connection of online and offline spaces to produce meaningful social ties. Special emphasis will be given to proposals that seek to address the epidemic of unwanted loneliness suffered by specific individuals and groups in our society.

How can traditional meeting spaces, such as squares, clubs or even village churches, be connected to digital spaces and networks? What existing public administration infrastructures can be harnessed and redirected in order to fight the loneliness linked to the digital divide and isolated populations and individuals?

How can we democratise and expand the communicative and meeting potential of digital technologies and environments to strengthen community ties?

The successful candidate/s will have the unique residency opportunity at LABoral Art and Industrial Creation Centre, interacting with local experts from the University of Oviedo MediaLAB and the General Directorate of Security and Digital Strategy Government of Asturias. The aim of this collaboration will be to define an innovative artwork on the verge of digital technologies and public administration.

During the residency at LABoral, the candidate/s will be provided with a studio and access to the digital fabrication laboratory. The candidate/s will exploit all insights from the expert group to understand context and opportunities better. The University of Oviedo MediaLAB will provide support through a team of young beta testers. Additionally, the General Directorate of Security and Digital Strategy Government of Asturias will provide a sandbox to test prototypes.

The candidate is expected to work closely with a local community and deliver a presentable outcome of the residency in the form of a prototype or installation, which will be presented in a group exhibition in early 2025.



Photo Credit Invisible City, Stavros Petropoulos, Onassis Stegi



DESIGNING FOR LIVING TOGETHER

Humans / Nature and the algorithmic city

Hosted by **ONASSIS STEGI**

In an urban environment marked by digitisation, AI is re-shaping the way we inhabit, organize and govern our cities. From the climate crisis and energy, to tourism growth and city governance, the use of AI comes with challenges and risks that must be taken and tackled seriously to benefit societies.

Resources

Keywords

regulation
machine learning
big data
machine and human
democracy
AI and commons
belonging
governmentality
citizenship

- [EC/DG REGIO Quality of life in European cities survey, 2019](#)
- [Benjamin, W. \(1942\) On the concept of history](#)
- [Bennett, J. \(2010\) Vibrant Matter. Durham NC: Duke University Press.](#)
- [Burrroughs, W.S. et al. \(2001\) Electronic revolution = elektronische revolution. Bonn: Expanded Media Editions.](#)
- [Deleuze, G. and Guattari, F. \(2014\) '1227: Treatise on Nomadology - The War Machine', in A thousand plateaus: Capitalism and schizophrenia. London: Bloomsbury Academic.](#)
- [Doxiadēs, K.A. \(1971\) Ekistics: An introduction to the science of human settlements. New York: Oxford University Press.](#)
- [Guattari, F. \(1995\) Chaosmosis. An ethico-aesthetic paradigm Sydney: Power Publications](#)
- [Haraway, D.J. \(2015\) Simians, Cyborgs, and women: The reinvention of nature. New York: Routledge.](#)
- [Landa, D.M. \(2019\) A Thousand Years of nonlinear history. New York: Zone Books.](#)
- [Latour, B. and Porter, C. \(2009\) Politics of nature: How to bring the sciences into democracy. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.](#)
- [Le Guin, U. \(1976\) The word for world is forest, New York: Berkley Books](#)
- [You and AI: The AI Survival Guide](#)
- [HackAthens 2020 — Recommended Readings](#)
- [HackAthens 2019 —The Uncommon Planner – To whom does Athens belong?](#)



Challenge

Residency

Athens stands by its contradictions. It is the city that gave birth to democracy and is among the capital cities with the worst quality of life in Europe. Greece is a country that every summer welcomes millions of tourists to its beaches and farewells millions of burnt trees in its forests. In these extreme conditions of environmental inequality, which are the emerging more-than-human subjectivities, how could we imagine an algorithmically mediated future democracy?

AI is the center of attention in most scientific fields, while societies are facing successive crises with its members becoming the data producers of a tool which “will change humanity” but it is unreachable for them, despite being everywhere. This residency open call is looking for an artistic research project that will question the new limits of the right to the city, the conception of citizenship and the sense of belonging in the framework of digital society. By taking into consideration the assumption that communities will need to develop their own ways to address future challenges, the artists are invited to think of alternative and decentralized uses of AI, develop allegorical, speculative or conceptual scenarios and present the potential political and social implications.

The nominated artist or artists group will have the opportunity to work in close collaboration with our expert group and interact with other artists of the Onassis AiR residency program during the development of his/her/their research in Athens, Greece. In addition, we aim to engage partners with diverse expertise and areas of interest, to support the artist(s) both with the used technologies and in widening their understanding of the urban ecosystem.

It's essential that the project is structured on a specific research methodology and leads to an artwork, artistic prototype, video, installation or format that could be exhibited at the end of the program. The artist(s) will have access to the Onassis AiR shared spaces and a rehearsal studio. The artist(s) is (are) encouraged to participate in public events organized during the residency, present their work to relevant audiences and local artists, and co-organize workshops in the context of their research and work.



Art collective teamLab providing an immersive experience in New York.
Photo courtesy of kooness.com

KEEP UP OR MISS OUT

Hosted by 

The advancement of technology is quicker than ever, and it is only going to speed up more. Individuals seem to have two choices: keep up with the quick pace and implement the use of new technologies in their lives or slow down, miss out and eventually experience tech anxiety.

Keywords

tech anxiety
exponential technology
humanity in technology
human rights
tech hype

Resources

- [What is exponential technology?](#)
- [Technology Needs More Humanity](#)
- [The Next Big Tech Trend Is Humanity](#)
- [The Psychology of Digital Dehumanization](#)
- [Beyond Freud: Crafting a Love Story between Humanity and Tech](#)
- [How technology can strengthen democracy](#)



Challenge

Residency

In our current volatile world, the emphasis is not on whether technology will further develop but rather on how we humans keep up with it. Is the saying 'whoever falls behind is left behind' the way it goes? It is often said that new technologies should not be a source of fear but should be seen as an opportunity to use for our own advancement. But what happens with our humanity in this process? When such continuous giant leaps are expected to 'keep up', how do we preserve our humanistic selves and values in the middle of it all?

Getting lost, not knowing the exact time, or being unable to look into our bank accounts - these are all things most of us do not ever struggle with anymore since we can carry the solution in our pockets. But where is the fine line between repeatedly adapting to the trends and keeping our authentic, flawed, very much alive selves? How do WE make technology humane?

We offer a residency working with a cross-sectoral focus resulting in interdisciplinary creation. Our challenge invites artists to imagine a world where technological advancements serve, support and elevate humane values.

In our residency, we look forward to receiving proposals incorporating and building on elements of performing arts and visual arts. We encourage artists to reflect on the challenge with regard to human rights, everyday life, individual well-being, communities, and solutionism.

The residency offers an opportunity for artists to experiment with their ideas with the support of local experts in AI, space technology, and innovation, some of whom are also practising art themselves. We celebrate new approaches, diverse genre and format usage, and sustainable artistic production.

Pro Progressione will channel its vast artistic network, professional partners and team to accommodate the needs of the selected artist(s) during their residency.



Image of the exhibition And We thought IV by Roberto Fassone, Ai Lai and LZ with Sineglossa, curated by Vincent Crapon
Photo Credit: Nuit de la culture

THE ENCHANTMENT OF TRUTH

Hosted by



Sineglossa

With the explosion of generative AI, disinformation and misinformation are spreading through human networks, challenging the concept of truth. We welcome projects exploring AI purposes, ethics and algorithmic power for a deeper understanding of how we can still make sense of the world collectively in a democratic society.

Keywords

debunking
post-truth
data ethics
fake news
generative AI

Resources

- [Debunking](#)
- [Debunking requires art](#)
- [Pen and Teller](#)
- [The spread of true and false news online](#)



Image the exhibition *And We Thought* III by Roberto Fassone, Ai Lai and LZ, curated by Sineglossa
Photo Credit Rolando Paolo Guerzoni

Challenge

Residency

With the advent of the Internet, conspiracy fantasies have spread pervasively throughout the world. The rise of generative AI, which enables the rapid and massive production of plausible multimedia content, threatens to explode this phenomenon. Conspirators spreading fake news are not interested in reports and numbers, considering these data as part of the system that conceals the plot. Also, scientific papers and robust proofs are usually not fascinating: research has shown that humans are more willing to believe and disseminate information if it is an emotionally captivating new story. People, not only plotters, are interested in content that creates enchantment.

This challenge aims to produce an artwork that addresses this issue to open meaningful discussions and scenarios on the age of post-truth, its consequences for our democratic values, and/or the design of systems that can expose and react to these risks. We encourage artists working in any media to submit a project that challenges misinformation and disinformation - through AI, but also about AI itself - with reliable data, wonder and stories. The use of generative AI - text, image, video, music, etc. - in the artwork will be an element of preference, as will the description of the used datasets.

The residency will take place between May and December 2024 at the [Tecnopolo Manifattura | Data Valley Hub](#) in Bologna (Italy), home to some of the most powerful High-Performance Computers in the world, and international reference for Supercomputing, Big Data and AI. In addition to the expected fee, the artist will receive 10,000€ in kind from the partner [Cineca Visit Lab](#) as follows: 8,000€ for data scientists and computer scientists' skills; 2,000€ for hardware, software and servers. The partner [FBK](#) will provide its in-depth knowledge of text analysis (50 hours of support) and generation tools:

- [Tint NLP suite](#) for the advanced analysis of Italian texts;
- access to large language models, in particular, generative models like GPT2, ChatGPT and similar;
- multilingual models like T5 and support fine-tuning them and generating texts in multiple languages.

Moreover, the artist will receive: i) mentoring from our expert group, gathering experts in data ethics, data-driven art and graphics, debunking, NLP, ii) support from the Human Technology Lab Group of the Department of Informatics Engineering of the University of Bolzano (designers, psychologists, philosophers and computer scientists), iii) support from Sineglossa.

By the end of the residency, the artist will have to produce an artwork which will be displayed in a temporary exhibition at the Technopole.



Photo Credit: Soa Ann Woon, Pexels

IMAGINE ROBOTS

Hosted by **waag**  futurelab

Waag Futurelab's challenge addresses Europe's polarization, with a focus on AI robots in Dutch horticulture and food processing. The call seeks projects envisioning a future where robots prevent polarization and enhance labor satisfaction.

Keywords

horticulture
AI robots
labor
visual ethnography

Resources

- [Digital Agriculture and Labor: A Few Challenges for Social Sustainability](#)
- [Arbeid in de toekomst; Inzicht in arbeid en goed werkgeverschap in de tuinbouw](#)
- [Identifying key ethical debates for autonomous robots in agri-food: a research agenda](#)
- [Ethical aspects of AI robots for agri-food; a relational approach based on four case studies](#)
- [What is Sensory Ethnography by Sarah Pink](#)



Photo Credit: Timia Miroshnichenko, Pexels

Challenge

Residency

Europe's growing polarization is largely rooted in digital technologies. Our call focuses on AI robots in Dutch horticulture and food processing, exploring their impact on labor contexts. Currently, the lack of local workforce is met with laborers from Eastern Europe that migrate to the West for better-paying seasonal work, creating challenges for industry managers in maintaining a steady workforce.

Waag will offer two residencies and provide curatorial mentoring to develop your art project. We'll help you connect with farms in the Netherlands to engage with horticulture and food processing contexts. The experts in visual ethnography will guide you to capture the evolving relationship between human labour and AI robots creatively.

To address this, industries invest in AI robots, promising constant availability and efficiency. However, concerns arise about potential job displacement and socio-economic disparities. We challenge artists to envision alternative futures where AI robots contribute to labor satisfaction, stability, and human well-being.

As a resident artist, you'll have privileged access to our makerspace at Waag, promoting artistic exploration and social engagement.

Seeking visionary projects that prioritize values beyond efficiency, we encourage artists to propose creative solutions through Visual Ethnography methodologies that envision a world where AI has a different relationship to human laborers, bridging societal divides and fostering inclusivity.

Considering the housing crisis, we give preference to artists based in the Netherlands. We are looking for projects that reimagine the future of labour with AI robots, proposing projects that explore the dynamic relationship in horticulture. In particular, we search for artists working or interested in visual ethnography to develop critical and creative visions for a transformed labor landscape.