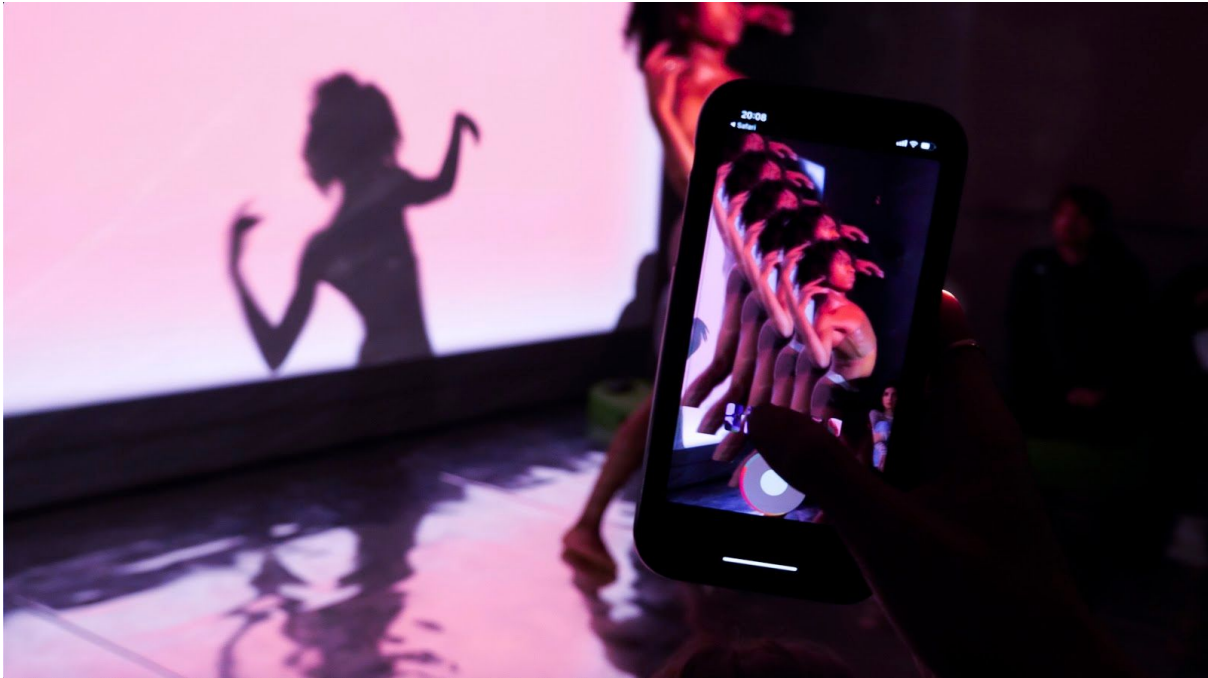




## PRESS KIT

# FACT: Ars Electronica Garden Liverpool Thursday 10 - Saturday 13 September



Keiken, George Jasper Stone & Sakeema Crook, *Feel My Metaverse - Mind, Body and Screen* (2019). Courtesy of the artists and Jerwood Arts

**Ars Electronica Garden x FACT presents four days of performances, conversations and tours about The Living Planet. Taking place at FACT and on online, the mini festival presents a special augmented reality performance by artist collective Keiken, a narrative game experience and artist talk with Kasia Molga and Ivan Henriques, and an animal vision exhibition tour that invites you to see FACT's galleries from the perspective of non-human species.**

The multiple crises that have dominated 2020 have laid bare grave social inequalities and the fragility of our relationship with the natural world. The desire to come together in collective response to the climate crisis and racial injustice has been frustrated by the equally pressing need to isolate and contain a disease that is disproportionate in its effects on the most vulnerable in society. How, in this time of separation and increasing alienation from one another, can we use readily available technologies to augment our perception of ourselves and our realities, and to connect with others (both human and non-human) in ways that are sensorial and empathic? Can we unlearn the physical limitations of our identities to exist in other speculative forms that transform and transpose us to the collective bodies we wish to be with?



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## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### **Exhibition: *And Say the Animal Responded?***

12 August - 13 December 2020

FACT, 88 Wood Street, Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Opening Times: From Wednesday 12 August. Open 12:00 - 19:00, Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00 - 17:00 on Sunday. Galleries closed on Monday and Tuesday.

If we listened to animals, what would we hear? What might they say to us about their world?

As we emerge from this period of isolation, and refocus our attention on a rapidly changing climate, *And Say the Animal Responded?* creates a space for the voice of the animal that we have gained greater awareness of during this time.

Tune in to a choir of whales and dolphins 'singing' to an artist's undersea instrument, encounter the quiet presence of wolf pack filmed from above, meet a family of chimps startled by a camera in their rainforest home, listen to a live colony of leafcutter ants turned scratch DJs, witness a computer-generated re-creation of an extinct rhino glitch in and out of existence. This immersive exhibition brings you face to face with animals from around the world through film, art and creative technology.

### **Exhibition: *Augmented Empathy***

2 September - 13 December 2020

FACT, 88 Wood Street, Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Opening Times: From Wednesday 2 September. Open every day.

As part of *The Living Planet*, FACT's programme focusing on the non-human, the artist collective Keiken have developed a multi-layered participatory project called *Augmented Empathy* in collaboration with FACT's Learning team.

In *Augmented Empathy*, the collective explores the subversion of existing tools and how social media can be used as a space for exchange and artistic creation. The result was three Instagram filters which can be accessed via [FACT's Instagram](#) and used by anyone. From these, the collective was joined by Sakeema Crook (an international dance artist whose practice explores progressive world-building and intersectionality) and Ryan Vautier to collaboratively develop a series of performances and an installation.

The way Keiken uses these tools bypasses not only the physical limitations of the body itself, but also the boundaries which society imposes upon them. In this space, bodies can be anything, and connect in unimaginable ways, unbound by our expectations or assumptions.

### **Live Performance: *Augmented Empathy***

Thursday 10 September 18:30 - 19:00

Watch Live Online



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Watch this live performance by artist collective Keiken and dance artist Sakeema Crook from the comfort of your home. This event uses augmented reality (AR) to bring together our bodies and the online world, conveying a message of love, change and hope for the future of our planet. Following the launch of three new Instagram filters and an exhibition at FACT in September 2020, this special performance explores how the subversion of social media can create a space for exchange and artistic creation. This performance will be broadcast live from Liverpool, UK.

**Live Artist Talk: *Natural Glitch***

Friday 11 September / 18:00 - 19:00

Watch Live Online

Since lockdown began, artists Kasia Molga (Poland/UK) and Ivan Henriques (Brazil/Netherlands) have been exchanging letters to overcome their physical separation as they prepare for an exhibition. Their correspondence speculates on the possibilities of transforming and transporting bodies, at the molecular level. Their exchanges create a world somewhere between reality and the imaginary, and which operates from the interconnectedness of all living things. Join us for an online artist conversation as Molga and Henriques discuss the broad scope of this evolving project, and how this first chapter of their journey has been transformed into interactive fiction.

**Instagram Tour: *And Say The Animal Responded?***

Saturday 12 September / 15:00

Watch on Instagram @FACT\_Liverpool

*And Say The Animal Responded?* presents work by six international artists who have captured animal voices and gestures through the use of human technology. How might our understanding of the world around us shift if we could communicate with other species? Experience our new exhibition from the viewpoint of an animal or insect. Join us on an Instagram tour and tap through our stories to explore the gallery spaces from above, below, and through a variety of different lenses and filters.

--ENDS--

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About FACT**

We stand for and celebrate the talents of film, art and creative technology. Imagined and made in Liverpool, we make internationally exceptional art, science and technology projects that radically explore society and its most pressing issues. Our success is reliant on the dedication and support of our visitors; each year we welcome over 250,000 people into our building and our learning programme has over 10,000 interactions with young people and adults from across Merseyside. In 2018 we worked with 88 artists from the UK and internationally and hosted 21 residencies to embed new thinking into our organisation. We worked with people in schools, prisons and in the community, and toured our artworks to China, Panama and York. [fact.co.uk](http://fact.co.uk)

**About Keiken**



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Keiken is a cross-dimensional collaborative practice (Hana Omori, Isabel Ramos and Tanya Cruz), whose work merges the physical with the digital by building online worlds and augmented realities. In *Augmented Empathy*, the collective is joined by dance artist Sakeema Crook, for an interactive public performance in which visitors are invited to activate augmented reality pieces, which extend from her body, while she re-performs her recent speech from Black Trans Lives Matter protests.

#### **About Kasia Molga (Poland/UK) and Ivan Henriques (Brazil/Netherlands)**

**Kasia Molga** is a Designer, Coder and Artists working on the intersection of art, design, technology and science. She explores emerging trends in technologies and how they can influence human perception or and relation to the natural environment and convey the notion of “collaboration with nature”. Her versatile experience of working across design disciplines gave her unique ability to comprehend, communicate and connect complex concepts and ideas. She translates them into tangible, multisensory and visual experiences, immersive environments, installations and hybrid visual/physical interfaces, design fictions or speculative futures narratives.

[studiomolga.com/](http://studiomolga.com/)

**Ivan Henriques** is a transdisciplinary artist and researcher working in multimedia installations examining living systems. He explores in his works hybrids of nature and (technological) culture creating new forms of communication between humans and other living organisms. He considers nature as inspiration and a necessary factor in the development of the technological world. Ivan developed the interdisciplinary group Hybrid Forms and is the director of the mobile residency program EME (Estúdio Móvel Experimental, since 2008). His works are exhibited internationally, participating in festivals, residencies and talks.

[ivanhenriques.com/about/](http://ivanhenriques.com/about/)

#### **For further information, please contact:**

**Email:** [press@fact.co.uk](mailto:press@fact.co.uk) | **Phone:** +44 (0)151 707 4444

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