

Sat, 03.06.2017 -Sun, 07.01.2018

## Hybrid Layers

ZKM\_Atrium 8+9

Press Conference: Thur, 01.06.2017, 11 a.m.

The group exhibition *Hybrid Layers* focuses on a generation of artists, who deal with the growing presence and impact of the digital sphere. It presents new perspectives on digital technology, the Internet and social networks and explores both the virtual and the physical appearance of an artistic practice deeply influenced by the digital. The approximately 25 positions presented at the exhibition reflect on contemporary social, technological and aesthetic debates. They reflect how comprehensive the digital aspect influences all areas of our everyday life, our perception and production of knowledge. In addition to video works, the ZKM | Karlsruhe exhibits installations, sculptures and six virtual reality (VR) projects which were developed by different artists and can be physically experienced in the exhibition by means of a *head-mounted display* for visitors.

The following artists from the generation of the so called *digital natives* are represented in *Hybrid Layers*: Riccardo Benassi, Enrico Boccioletti, Anne de Vries, Aleksandra Domanović, Ed Fornieles, Guan Xiao, Yngve Holen & Aedrhlsomrs Othryutupt Lauecehrofn, Yu Honglei, Delia Juergens, Daniel Keller, Lawrence Lek, Metaphysics (participating artists: Eddie Peake, Florian Meisenberg, Anne de Vries, Rubén Grilo, Jack Strange and Anna K.E.; produced by Philip Hausmeier), Katja Novitskova, Yuri Pattison, Sophia Al Maria, Blunt x Skensved, Auto Italia South East, Glass Bead and Tabita Rezaire.

### Digital condition

*Hybrid Layers* investigates the multifaceted aspects of what can be referred to as the 'digital condition'. In the exhibition, the digital becomes the key, the "a priori". Since its founding the ZKM has dealt with the current developments in media art and describes the influence of current technologies on people as well as art production by means of multifaceted exhibitions. While the infrastructural and dystopic aspects of the digital transformation were the focus within the scope of the GLOBALE, *Hybrid Layers* addresses the lifeworld influences of new media on a young generation of artists, primarily *digital natives* born in the 1980s, who see themselves with the growing presence of the digital sphere and its impact.

### Press information

May 2017

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Duration of exhibition

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Site

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### Press contact

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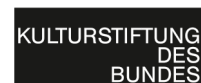
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ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe

Lorenzstraße 19

76135 Karlsruhe

Exhibition sponsored by



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At the time of its emergence it was possible to treat media art as a conclusive category. Today, however, focusing on artworks which deal with the extensive topics of technology and digital aspects means penetrating the complexity of a field that cannot be subsumed under a specific category or a genre. The exhibition pays tribute to the multiple perspectives which become apparent through technologies. As a result, it makes the attempt to examine the different strands of an open and multifaceted narrative and the technology discourse liberated from all restrictive categorizations.

## Examples of artists

### Ed Fornieles

British artist Ed Fornieles mainly draws on Internet based contests such as images and text elements from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for his works, and merges the real (pictorial) world with the virtual world in his installations and performances.

The video installation *Der Geist: Flesh Feast* presented in *Hybrid Layers*, which is supplemented by a printed tapestry and printed 3d figures, also takes the visitor along on the journey into the process of self-management and constant self-optimization by means of an avatar in the form of a cartoon character of a fox. Stock photos from the Internet on topics such as work, eating, family, happiness and death overlap each other to comprise a flood of images regarding self-management. The female voice-over of a video reminiscent of a commercial advertising film appeals with phrases such as "limitations become strength" and "clear yourself of self-doubt" to a better self, which is gone through on the avatar in the course of the video.

### Guan Xiao

In her works, Chinese artist Guan Xiao reacts to the inexhaustible flood of images which surround a person day after day in the Internet and which are a self-evident part of our everyday life nowadays. In her multichannel video installations she detaches these images from their original context and conveys them in an order that mostly follows pure personal logic. The newly arising, non-hierarchical contexts of meanings help with their intuitive sequences of cuts characterized by a great visual and linguistic rhythm to understand the conditions of sight and perception in a medially characterized, globalized present as a state constantly in change.

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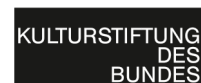
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***Metaphysics* (participating artists: Eddie Peake, Florian Meisenberg, Anne de Vries, Rubén Grilo, Jack Strange and Anna K.E.; produced by Philip Hausmeier)**

*NAUSEA* is a compilation of six virtual reality (VR) projects which were developed by different artists. The different worlds came into being in the course of collaboration with the VR startup company *Metaphysics*, which was founded by Philipp Hausmeier in 2016. It enables artists who are not specialized in the development or utilization of VR to experiment with different concepts of virtual perception, aesthetics and interactions, and to make this tangible for the user in the virtual world.

*Metaphysics* works with the HTC Vive, the current market leader for virtual reality systems, for its developments. By means of its Lighthouse technology, the computer is able to recognize the exact position and orientation of head-mounted displays in an area of 4.5 by 4.5 meters. Users can interact with virtual objects and move around the room with special game controllers. Exhibition visitors have the opportunity to explore different VR worlds and plunge into virtual reality at selected times.

### **Katja Novitskova**

Artist Katja Novitskova lives in Berlin and Amsterdam, and deals with the limits of visual data processing in her works. Having become known through her hyper-realistic cutouts of digital clip art from the Internet, in her installations she examines the complex relationships between ecology and technology. By adopting pictorial worlds which are mostly beyond the human visual spectrum, such as images from space or the deep, she abandons anthropocentric viewpoints and explores the rapid medial transformation of the perception of our world through digital imaging systems.

### **Yuri Pattison**

In his installation *Free Traveller*, the artist living in London examines the island metaphor behind the website *The Pirate Bay* (frequently abbreviated as TPB). *TPB* was – until its shutdown because of copyright infringements – one of the most popular *BitTorrent file sharing* platforms for digital contents. Free software, games or films could be downloaded via peer-to-peer file exchange. While Pattison designs TPB as a real place, he develops a dense network of associative references around the topics “networks” and “islands”, which encompasses libertarian texts from the prehistory and early days of the Internet as well as the reference to the use of the color blue by the high-tech companies Google, Facebook and IBM, video footage from the *Tropical Islands* theme park near Berlin as well as the AIBO robotic dog from Sony. In light of the limits and restrictions which increasingly regulate the Internet today, *Free Traveller* is a remembrance of the utopian spirit of

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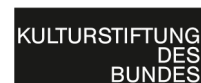
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alternative economic models that characterized the Internet in its early days.

**Exhibition curators:** Giulia Bini, Sabiha Keyif, Daria Mille and Philipp Ziegler

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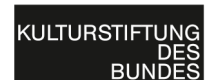
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