Is Technology Sexist?
On Media, Post-humanity and the Role of Gender in the development of a new Media Practice

Master-Symposium HS 2017 / 2018
October 11–13, 2017
Art Institute, FHNW Academy of Arts and Design in Basel

Hosted by: Chus Martínez and Paul Feigelfeld

Guests: Alan Bogana, Raffael Dörig, Paul Feigelfeld, Hannes Grassegger, Mavie Hörbiger, Matylda Krzykowski, Shusha Niederberger, Filipa Ramos, Emily Segal, Who writes his_tory?

The symposium includes two public sessions (days one and two) as well as an internal workshop for Master's students only (day three).

Artists have largely been concerned with questions that the technology industries consider secondary: What role do women play in the development of technology, and how has technological change affected the roles of women and ideas of gender? How does technology offer possibilities for new social relations and how should we evaluate these possibilities?

A series of experts—local and international—will present and discuss the relevance of gender, race, class, and sexuality in today's understanding of technology and the development of new technological tools. We consider the art context—and the educational context of the academy—ideal to introduce these questions to a larger audience interested in how art and culture may help neutralize an un-critical approach to media, its presence in our everyday lives, and its contribution to a more equal social future.

Media technologies are a crucial part of our future, and neither an antagonism towards nor celebration of them allows us to better understand what they are and, more importantly, how we act around them. Art has played a seminal role in discussing and contesting the politics of media. Since media, media tools, and technology are representational-based languages, it is not surprising that art and artists were among the first communities to pay attention to the new forms of gender and race relations they provide and confront us with.

The symposium is intended to introduce ideas, but also practical examples, images, works by artists, as well as best practices that address a different use of the media, as well a new user language.

Program

DAY ONE
October 11, 2017, 10 am – 6.30 pm, Aula (Tower Building)
Open to the public

Session 1 – #Feminism!? Do Virtual Bodies Contribute to New Forms of Gender Relations?

Media technologies play a large role in creating social norms, because various forms of media—including advertisements, television, and film, but also the architectures of our technologies down to circuit design—are present almost everywhere in current culture. Gender roles, as an example, exist solely because society as a whole chooses to accept them, but they are perpetuated by the media and hardwired into the design of our technologies. Conspicuous viewers and users must be aware of what the media is presenting to them, and make sure they're not actively participating in a culture of oppression and inequality.

10 am	**Welcome**
10.15 – 10.30 am	**Paul Feigelfeld:** Introduction
10.30 – 11.30am	**Matylda Krzykowski:** The Screen Show
11.45 am – 12.45 pm	**Hannes Grassegger:** The Algorithmic Lie. Why tech guys find machines very sexy.
1 – 2 pm	**LUNCH BREAK**
2.15pm – 3.15pm	**Emily Segal:** The Rubens Engine
3.30 – 4.30 pm	**Shusha Niederberger:** What do we mean with technology? A short introduction into feminist thinking about technology, astonishing practices and the technological performance of being female
5 – 6.30 pm	**Alan Bogana:** Artist Talk

DAY TWO
October 12, 10 am – 4 pm, Aula (Tower Building)
Open to the public

Session 2 – Misandry Online, And How We Can Contest It

This session will revolve around the lack of diversity and presence of misogyny in tech-culture, the myth of meritocracy, and the growing belief in "misandry" online.

10 am	**Paul Feigelfeld:** Introduction and recap day one
10.15 – 11.15 am	**Filipa Ramos:** The Company one keeps—laptops, lapdogs, lapdances
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	**Raffael Dörig:** Escaping the Digital Unease
12.45 – 1.15 pm	**LUNCH BREAK**
1.30 – 2.30 pm	**Mavie Hörbiger & Paul Feigelfeld:** I'm not here right now. The Manning-Lamo-Chatlogs Reading
3 – 4 pm	**Final Discussion and conclusion**

DAY THREE
October 13, 10 am – 4pm, Media Library (Tower Building)
For Master's students only

Please bring a laptop with you!

Workshop with Daniela Brugger, Katharina Brandl, Nicole Boillat and Lysann König

Who writes his_tory? is a collaborative project to question structural discrimination on the internet and especially on Wikipedia, with the aim to hold recurrent writing workshops (Edit-a-thons) on the subject of Art and Feminsm to influence information sustainably, to question historiography and add a feminist perspective to it. Wikipedia is a prominent tool to generate and consolidate knowledge and online research is a basic instrument of artistic work and a daily practice. But the relevant contemporary question is how knowledge and information is spread and how it is funded? Edit-a-thons with the subject Art and Feminsm are held worldwide on all continents and took place for the first time in Basel 5th and 6th March 2016. Prior to the workshop, art historians and artists were invited to take part. It was a public event and everybody could participate. The framework initiative Art+Feminism is active since 2014. In Basel ist was initialised for the first time by Daniela Brugger and the Art and Project Space Kaskadenkondensator in 2016. Who writes his_tory? is an open source project in cooperation with Wikimedia & www.artandfeminism.org, artists and supporters www.whowriteshistory.me

Link to eventpage: **https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikimedia_CH/Edit-a-thon_-_Who_writes_his_tory%3F_Art_%26_Feminism_Oktober_2017_FHNW,_Institut_Kunst_Basel**

Biographies

Alan Bogana (b. 1979 in Switzerland, lives and work in Geneva) is an artist with a special emphasis on digital processes and how these alter our understanding of what is an image versus what is information.

Raffael Dörig (b.1976 in Switzerland, lives in Basel) is a curator specialized in media and how they influence the future of exhibitions and institutions. Since 2012, he is in charge of Kunsthaus Langenthal.

Paul Feigelfeld (b. 1979, lives and work in Berlin and Vienna) is a media theorist and activist whose research focuses on the politics of media and new technologies.

Hannes Grassegger (b. 1980 in Germany, lives and work in Zurich is an economist specialized in research journalism on economy and media.

Mavie Hörbiger (b.1979 in Austria, lives in Vienna) is an actress and a member of Austria's National Theatre, the Burgtheater.

Matylda Krzykowski (b. 1982 in Poland, lives in Basel) is a designer and curator with a special focus on how ideas of the new are built and how they distinguish themselves from novelty.

Chus Martínez is the head of the Art Institute in Basel. Her curatorial and educational practice has been focusing on notions such as the relationship between humans and nature or the impact of gender and race on artistic practi and discourse.

Shusha Niederberger (b.1974 in Switzerland, lives in Winterthur) is an artist, educator, researcher and a passionate nerd. She is interested in how technology acts out as culture and shapes practices of all kind.

Filipa Ramos (b. 1978 in Portugal, lives in London) is a curator and a writer with a special focus on cinematic practices, how they opened up towards nature and how a non-human centered perception affects curatorial practices.

Emily Segal (b. 1988, lives in Berlin) is a writer, strategist and co-founder of K-Hole (2011-2016). She is interested in how the creative sector and the digital world transform ideas of labor, gender and social interaction.

Who writes his_tory? (founded in 2016) is a collaborative project to question structural discrimination on the internet and especially on Wikipedia. It is a loose network of artists, art historians and activists gathering regularly to discuss and edit Wikipedia articles on the subject of Art&Feminism. Daniela Brugger, Katharina Brandl, Nicole Boillat, and Lysann König are present for the workshop.