Digital Synesthesia

Exhibition Concept
Katharina Gsöllpointner, Ruth Schnell, Romana Schuler

Curatorial Board
Katharina Gsöllpointner, Ruth Schnell,
Romana Schuler, Jeffrey Shaw, Peter Weibel

Exhibition Team
Katharina Gsöllpointner, Martin Kusch,
Patricia Reis, Ruth Schnell, Romana Schuler

Exhibition Design
Wolfgang Fiel

Exhibition Graphic Design
www.grafikum.com

Project Coordination
Gabi Pichler

www.digitalsynesthesia.net
www.digitalekunst.ac.at

Preface

The three-year arts-based, trans- and interdisciplinary, research project DIGITAL SYNESTHESIA (2013–2016) aimed at the exploration of the synesthetic capabilities of digital artworks. In the center of the research process stood an inter- and transdisciplinary workflow which provided an extraordinary possibility to explore the exciting phenomenon of synesthesia (Ancient Greek *syn* "together" and *aisthēsis* "sensation, perception") from the perspective of the aesthetics of digital art.

The project has focused on the technological, media, and aesthetic conditions of digital artworks to provoke translational and cross-modal sensory processes and thus provide synesthetic experiences for non-synesthetes. As a result, 14 digital artworks, which 17 internationally renowned artists have produced in cooperation with a team of scholars and scientists, are presented in this exhibition.

Visitors are invited to explore the interactive installations, responsive environments, dynamic projections, performances and their representations, live sonifications and immersive installations with all their senses and thus find out about the fascinating multimodal quality of their perception.

Projects

1. At Play
kondition pluriel
(Martin Kusch / Marie-Claude Poulin)

2. Bestiary for the Minds of the 21st Century: Genomic Opera
Marcello Mercado

3. Data Music
Peter Weibel

4. E.E.G. KISS
Karen Lancel / Hermen Maat

5. facades
Ruth Schnell

6. The Flying Umbrella Project
Alan Kwan

7. I am Sound
Tamiko Thiel / Christoph Reiserer

8. IN_SIDE VIEW
Jeffrey Shaw / Sarah Kenderdine

9. MotU #4–#6
Ruth Schnell

10. Sound Calligraphy
Ulla Rauter

11. Space Time
Karl Heinz Jeron

12. Topography of Movement
Ruth Schnell

13. Transmission+Interference
David Strang / Vincent Van Uffelen

14. VERTICALE 2
Anke Eckardt

1.

At Play – build your own worlds!

At Play is a responsive audio-visual environment that invites visitors to create their own sculptural combinations with plastic storage bins to build the architectural landscape of the installation.

Miniature versions of containers that carry goods to world markets, these everyday plastic bins are there to be playfully moved around by visitors to the exhibition, like pieces of a puzzle.

The boxes are integrated into a pattern recognition system that matches each sculptural composition with a particular visual and sonic atmosphere. Both image and sound undergo a series of transformations in real time that imbues the grey boxes with a mysterious expressive power that has political undertones.

The "construction blocks" of At Play are symbolic objects of both childhood and the adult world, in a globalized world waiting to be reinvented. The boxes ultimately become information units, the visitors potential catalysts of change and the installation a transformation platform.

Martin Kusch / Marie-Claude Poulin

Photo: Bruno Colpron, © kondition pluriel, 2015. "Enjeux" Performance at Theatre La Chapelle, Montreal

kondition pluriel
(Martin Kusch /
Marie-Claude Poulin)

Artistic media
Responsive audio-visual installation
with computer-tracking system
Primary sensory modalities
Kinesthetics, Touch, Vision, Audio
2016

Produced by:
kondition pluriel in co-production with the
Digital Synesthesia Group

With the support of:
Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ)
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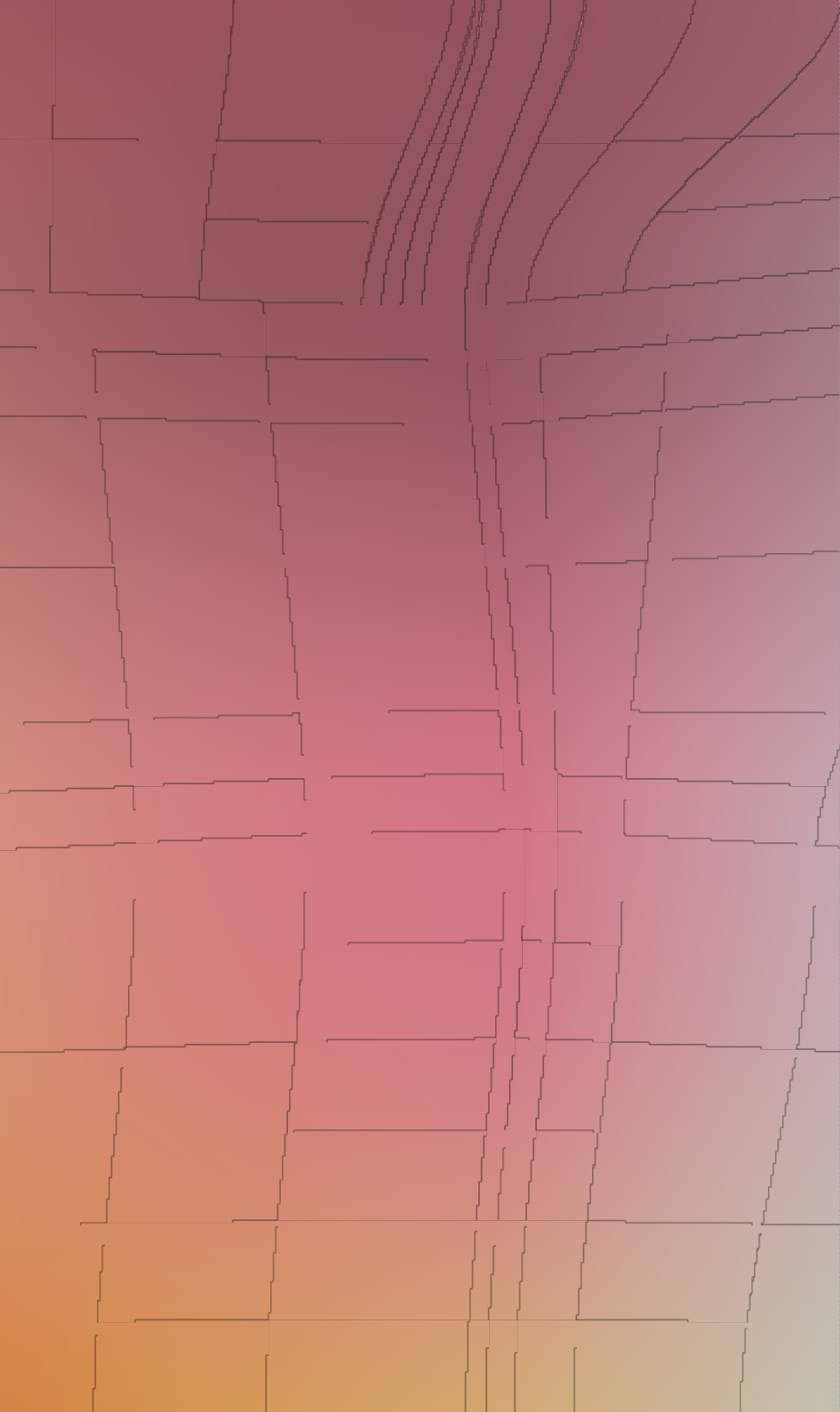
Concept and idea:
Martin Kusch and Marie-Claude Poulin
Artistic direction:
Martin Kusch and Marie-Claude Poulin
Interactive design and media content:
Martin Kusch and Johannes Hucek
Visual programming and technical setup:
Johannes Hucek
Sound: Alexandre St-Onge