

HARM VAN DEN DORPEL
11.05.2019 | 29.06.2019

UNINNOCENT BYSTANDER

For the solo exhibition Uninnocent Bystander, Harm van den Dorpel presents his newest iteration of works that explore the dynamics of algorithmic architectures.

In this extended work, initially labelled "Death Imitates Language", a set of originary images are combined and recombined via a genetic algorithm to generate new sets of "descendant" images. The latest "generation" of images was birthed as a result of tinkering by Van den Dorpel with the underlying combinatorial algorithm. To overcome the size restrictions imposed by creating works using a linear chromosome as a primary reference point (which is how genetics function in nature), Van den Dorpel turned to a hierarchical form of organization which he encountered in the analysis of natural human language.

To create the newest series the artist borrowed from what is known as "Cartesian Genetic Programming". CGP allows for programming code to mutate, in order to create a broad variation among many syntactically valid, and potentially meaningful, programmes. This technology from 1999 has mostly been superseded by neural networks, which power today's most powerful artificial intelligence.

Van den Dorpel's works concern themselves with the dynamics of progression and halting - one of the animating questions of early computational science. Whether or why a given process or programme ever completes (or gets perpetually stuck) underwrites inquiries that stretch beyond the realms of computing and penetrate every aspect of social and biological endeavour. Such processes are only partially understandable - indeed the famous Turing Machine provided a formalisation of the nature of undecidability with regard to the halting problem, demonstrating that it would never be possible to know the status of all potential computing programmes.

Despite the melancholic epistemological implications, such uncertainty provides considerable scope for growth and surprise. This lack of closure is something that Van den Dorpel frequently celebrates in his work, arguing against the notion of the artwork as a finalised object subject to the sort of Groysean archiving that amounts to a kind of death sentence for a given piece.

Instead, Van den Dorpel seeks to explore the tensions between creation and recognition. The artist may set certain processes in motion, but the motion has interests and consequences of its own. Thus, his works are environments as much as they are objects: evolving to produce specific states at specific moments, but they are never complete. The works are snapshots of a joint creative endeavour between Van den Dorpel and the logics he engages, and which engage him.

HARM VAN DEN DORPEL

1981, Zaandam, Netherlands.
Lives and works in Berlin (DE).

EDUCATION

2002 - 2006

Time Based Arts, Gerrit Rietveld
Academie, Amsterdam (NL).

1990 - 2002

Artificial Intelligence, Vrije
Universiteit, Amsterdam (NL).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

Innocent Bystander. Lehmann
+ Silva, Porto (PT).

2018

Pattern and Presence. Upstream
Gallery, Amsterdam (NL).

2017

Asking for a friend. Narrative
Projects, London (UK).

Lexachast (performance with Bill
Kouligas and Amnesia Scanner).
Transmediale, Haus der Kulturen
der Welt, Berlin (DE).

2016

Death Imitates Language.

Neumeister Bar-Am, Berlin (DE).

2015

IOU. Narrative Projects, London
(UK).

Loomer. Young Projects, Los
Angeles (US).

**Ambiguity points to the mystery
of all revealing.** Neumeister Bar-
Am, Berlin (DE).

Just-in-Time. American Medium,
New York City (US).

2014

The Composing Rooms, Berlin (DE).

2013

Release Early, Release Often (...).
Abrons Arts Center, New York
City (US).

2012

About. Wilkinson Gallery,
London (UK).

Watch the Throne. Grouphab.it,
Berlin (DE).

The Mews Project Space,
London (UK).

2011

**You're so beautiful, and so on...
with Bas van den Hurk.** Rod
Barton, London (UK).

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019

left gallery at Stroom,
The Hague (NL).

Vertiginous Data. National
Museum of Modern and
Contemporary Art, Korea (KR).

2018

Proof of Work. Schinkel Pavillon,
Berlin (DE).

E-State Realisms. ArtCenter /
South Florida, Miami Beach (US).

I Was Raised On The Interne.,
Museum of Contemporary Art,
Chicago (US).

2017

Open Codes. ZKM, Karlsruhe (DE).

Immortalism. Kunstverein,
Freiburg (DE).

**Wild Flowers (wildness is
contextual!).** Narrative Projects,
London (UK).

New Dawn. Neumeister Bar-Am,
Berlin (DE).

Site Visit. Kunstverein, Freiburg (DE).

Shifting Optics IV. Upstream
Gallery, Amsterdam (NL).

2016

**ICA Associates: PAN Presents
(...) (performance lecture).** ICA,
London (UK).

Wer nicht denken will, fliegt raus.
Museum Kurhaus, Kleve (DE).

Drawing After Digital. XPO Studio,
Paris (FR).

2015

Hecker Leckey Sound Voice

Chimera. MoMa PS1, NYC (US).

Politics are Personal. Exo Exo,
Paris (FR).

Little Strokes Fell Great Oaks.

Lord Ludd, Philadelphia (US).

24/7: the human condition.

Vienna Biennale 2015, MAK,
Vienna (AT).

Inflected Objects. Swiss Institute,
Milan (IT).

Shifting Optics. Upstream Gallery,
Amsterdam (NL).

2014

Liminal Sunday. group exhibition at
Satellite Space, Los Angeles (US).

Collecting Mode. group exhibition
at Neumeister Bar-Am, Berlin (DE).
The Moving Museum, Istanbul (TR).

Unoriginal Genius. group
exhibition at Carrol / Fletcher,
London (UK).

Private Settings (commissioned sculpture). Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw (PL).

Residency and exhibition, The Moving Museum, Istanbul (TR).

In Its Image. American Medium, New York City (US).

Art Post-Internet. Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (CN).

Surplus Living. KM Temporaer, Berlin (DE).

The New Beauty of Our Modern Life. Higher Pictures, New York City (US).

They Live. online exhibition, Shanaynay, Paris (FR).

Driving Fast Nowhere. Polansky Gallery, Prague (CZ).

2013

Image Employment. MoMa PS1, NYC (US).

Where Narrative Stops. Wilkinson Gallery, London (UK).

Dissociations @ First Look Series. online commission, The New Museum, New York City (US).

Analogital. Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City (US).

Plants vs Zombies.

Boetzelaer|Nispen, Amsterdam (NL).

2012

Against Interpretation.

Onomatopee Projects, Eindhoven (NL).

Bcc 9: Das Ei ohne Schale.

OSLO10, Basel (CH).

Motion. Seventeen Gallery, London (UK).

Say goodbye to Hollywood.

Import Projects, Berlin (DE).

Deep Space (insides). Joe Sheftel, New York City (US).

2011

The Greater Cloud. Dutch Institute for Media Art, Amsterdam (NL).

Where Language Stops. Wilkinson Gallery, London (UK).

Collect the WWWorld. Link Art Center, Brescia (IT).

Boo! Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam (NL).

2010

Multiplex. Peer to Space, Munich (DE).

Index of Potential. Athens (GR).

Enchanted. School of

Development, Berlin (DE).

Sousveillance. Young Artists' Biennial, Bucharest (RO).

Maps & Legends. Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome (IT).

Free. The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City (US).

2009

Versions. Dutch Institute For Media Arts, Amsterdam (NL).

Contemporary Semantics Beta. Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam (NL).

LMIRL. Capricious Gallery, New York City (US).

Are you sure you are you?.

Spencer Brownstone Gallery, New York City (US).

The New Easy. Art News Projects, Berlin (DE).

New Wave. Internet Pavillion, Biennale di Venezia, Venice (IT).

Away from Keyboard. Sculpture Garden Atelierhof Kreuzberg, Berlin (DE).

Argot. Plan B, Amsterdam (NL).

Objects, Furniture, and Patterns. Art Since The Summer Of '69, New York City (US).

GRANTS AND PRIZES

2016

Net Based Award, Haus der Elektronischen Künste, Basel (CH).

2012

Grant (bijdrage werkbudget), Mondriaan Foundation (NL).

2011

Grant (bijdrage werkbudget), Dutch Foundation for the Arts (Fonds BKVB) (NL).

2010

Grant (startstipendium), Dutch Foundation for the Arts (Fonds BKVB) (NL).

SCREENINGS

2013

Dream Factory. Import Projects, Berlin (DE).

2012

Strategies. Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage (DE).

DNK celebrates James Tenney & John Cage. Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam (NL).

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CURATING

2016 - ONGOING

Left gallery
(<https://left.gallery/>) (DE).

2015

Strange Strangers. iPad exhibition, presented at **Resistance and the Digital Sublime**, Venice Biennale (IT).

2011

Rhododendron. W139, Amsterdam, group show (NL).
Rhododendron II. Space project space, London, group show (UK).

2008 - 2009

Club Internet, online internet exhibition space.

PANELS AND TALKS

2019

Water Cooler Talk. Städelschule, Frankfurt (DE).

2018

What Art Problems Can Blockchain Solve?. Art Basel Miami Beach (US).

2016

Concluding panel discussion. Impakt Festival, Utrecht (NL).

2015

Art Basel - Salon, Artist Talk | BioLab Studios, Basel

The Internemotional Symposium. Showroom MAMA, Rotterdam (NL).
Resistance and the Digital Sublime, Venice (IT).

2014

Structures and Textures:

Database. Lunch-bytes panel discussions series, Foam, Amsterdam (NL).

2013

Post-Net Aesthetics. The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London (UK).

TEACHING

2018

Guest teacher at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg (DE).

2017

Visiting lecturer at the Écal, Lausanne (CH).

2016

Guest teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts, Helsinki (FI).

Guest teacher at De Ateliers, Amsterdam (NL)

Guest teacher at Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach, Frankfurt (DE).

2008 - 2012

New Media Arts and Interaction Design, Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam (NL).