

Press Release

## How Will We Work?

A show by the University of Applied Arts  
Vienna

Exhibition Venue      Angewandte Innovation Laboratory (AIL)  
1010 Vienna, Franz Josefs Kai 3  
Exhibition Dates      20 June 2017 – 27 September 2017 (Closed in August)  
Opening Hours        Monday – Friday 12 – 5 p.m., Wednesday 12 – 8 p.m.  
Free Admission

Do we work too much? Can robots and algorithms do our jobs? Do we have to compete with robots? How could we be more efficient? One of the most significant societal shifts that is currently taking place is the transformation of what it means to work and to be a worker. The impetus for this shift is relentless technological acceleration, driven by geopolitical conditions and the free market. From the Internet of Things and automation to artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, drones, and 3D printing: the pace of change to the way we work is unprecedented.

Research into work, the labor market, and the future of these areas that is coming out of universities and central banks is speculating that between 30% and 50% of jobs are at risk of automation in the next 15 years. We have already seen hundreds of thousands of industrial manufacturing jobs lost to automation, and white collar jobs are next in line for efficiency savings. Asset management, data analysis, patient care, legal advice, construction, customer services, and financial trading can all be done by increasingly sophisticated algorithms and machines.

*How Will We Work?* endeavours to capture a discourse that's in progress. This exhibition, divided in three chapters, aims to lead a discussion on radical changes to the way we define and think about the role of work.

### Overworked

The first part of *How Will We Work?* investigates how the media portray our contemporary working conditions, and how companies' relationships with their employees are evolving. It also presents glimpses of research from academia, think tanks, and labor organizations that are developing the future of employment rights and practices. Precarious working conditions, the "uberization" of workplaces, and the emergence of the robot rights movement have already slipped into our lives.

## Examining Work

The second chapter of the exhibition challenges this ongoing discourse around the future of work. We have brought together work that explores journeys to fully automated container terminals in ports, vending machines that can help you earn money while you wait, computer programs that make you less efficient in the workplace to get back at unethical employers, and robots that add a human touch to their creations. Projects in this section give us an opportunity to reflect on the underlying complexities regarding the future of work, technological acceleration, post-capitalism, and human agency.

## Reimagining Work

The final part of *How Will We Work?* starts by showing how artists, designers, and makers explore the notion of human work. Work that is not about efficiency, replication, and productivity, but instead about learning, discovering, inspiring, and indeed, becoming more-than-human.

*How Will We Work?* invites you to reflect on the many discussions and explorations taking place around emerging technologies and work in our societies. The creative sector should, and can, intervene in this debate, take a leading role in it and stimulate and inspire political decision-makers around the world to re-negotiate the concept of work and build on a more sustainable and equitable future: What can we do to shape this new frontier, before it shapes us?

## Artists:

Morehshin Allahyari & Daniel Rourke

automato.farm

Stephan Bogner & Philipp Schmitt

Perry Chen

Common Works

Creative Team at the UK Government Digital Service

Design Friction

Alicia Eggert

Harun Farocki

Laura Forlano, Marshall Brown, Lili Du, Ron Henderson & Jack Guthman

Lukas Franciszkiewicz (Takram)

Alexandra Fruhstorfer

Anne Galloway & Dani Clode

Ian Gwilt & Joe Rolph

Sara Hendren & Caitrin Lynch

Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam

Fabio Hofer, Felix Lenz, Johanna Pichlbauer & Kati Shipilenko

Daniel Kloboucnik;

Maximilian Lackner

Sam Lavigne

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Lemmings  
Liquid Factory  
Joe Macleod  
Nicholas Masterton  
Tim Maughan  
Me You and the Robot  
Ivica Mitrović & Oleg Šuran  
Charlotte Nordmoen  
Normally  
(OFFTIME)  
Tobias Revell  
Strange Telemetry  
unMonastery  
Addie Wagenknecht

Text contributions by  
Luciano Floridi  
Karen Gregory  
Scott Santens  
Scott Smith  
Nick Srnicek  
Alex Taylor  
Judy Wajcman

Curators: Gerald Bast (President, University of Applied Arts Vienna) and  
Anab Jain (Superflux, Professor for Industrial Design, University of Applied  
Arts Vienna)

Assistant Curators: Jake Charles Rees (Superflux) and Martina Schöggl  
(University of Applied Arts Vienna)

Exhibition Design: Cin Cin & Rainer Stadlbauer

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Robots. Work. Our Future

viennabiennale.org

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