

*"Waiting for a world to be brought back by the language,
somebody sings where silence is formed".
Alejandra Pizarnik*

Being Digital*

Virtuality is a contemporary technology phenomenon that provides new space and time interaction forms, and envisages experiences that may only be achieved in the digital dimension. Thus, it becomes a strategic tool for the development of artistic practices both domestically and internationally.

With the general idea of considering digital platforms as spaces for the production and viewing of projects, nine artists from different disciplines spent one month of on-line artist residency exploring the possibilities offered by virtuality as reflection and production dynamics. They created individual and collaborative pieces that approached different contemporary issues regarding communication, languages, materialities, bodies and the relation with the physical and emotional environment.

Franco Martín Contreras (Mendoza, ARG), **María Daud Álvarez** (Santiago del Estero, ARG) and **Alejandro López** explore the relation with other bodies and materialities in three performance projects.

Franco Contreras delves into the mechanics of everyday life and work using the materials, techniques, tools and actions found in his own home. In *My House is not Your House / Mi casa no es tu casa*, Franco is the protagonist of a ritual act consisting of three moments, which highlights the artist doings and the presence of his surroundings as action triggers. He narrates his own funeral by resorting to elements found in the family house yard, and divides the scenario in three moments, thus turning the vital cycle of creation into an act of resurrection.

In *Autumn Crop / Cosecha de otoño*, **María Daud Álvarez** chats with her emotional environment. Her home and its surrounding landscape become the scenario of a series of in-process actions throughout this video performance. Pots materialize the body's action of merging with nature, and represent the process of relocating their materiality in the landscape. The bowl is a portal, multiplying the actions and emotions that give birth to new ways of representing their universe.

In *HEY GO*, **Alejandro Lopez** explores interpersonal relations and digs into the progresses made in artificial intelligence to mimic human emotions. The artist participates in conversations with Google's Assistant, showing the need to interact with other people. These conversations with a virtual counterpart turn personal assistance devices into the new dogma that promises to solve the conflicts most inherent to ourselves, while showing the underlying difficulties that may arise on our daily lives due to loneliness, confinement and uncertainty.

Anamarie Sierra Pagán (Bayamón, Puerto Rico), **Claudio Andrés Alessio** (San Juan, ARG) and **Mariana Frandsen** (Montreal, Canada) have developed three pieces using different techniques, where they study the potential of virtuality and its materiality.

New Data / Datos nuevos is a live monitoring piece devised for the Internet. **Anamarie Sierra Pagán** (Bayamón, Puerto Rico) makes use of a scientific language resource used to identify useful data and applies it to everyday factors and actions that, although irrelevant, depict her uniqueness as a human being. These useless and unrepeatable contents both make her existence unique and are the raw material of her work. The artist identifies minimum units of sense to build poetics based on the search for complex solutions to non-existent problems.

You Are invited / Estás Invitado is a digital interactive work collaboratively developed with **Claudio Alessio** and **Mariana Frandsen**. This proposal analyzed the link with the digital universe as an aesthetic experience. Going beyond what is predictable within the application

possibilities, the proposal invites us to explore, and motivates spontaneity as the engine to create a work that changes according to the use each individual makes of it.

In the video *Mourning chair / La silla del duelo*, **Mariana Frandsen** delves into the topic of mourning and what is left after destruction. She turns the documentation of images of the same place on different days and at different times into a metaphor of how memories are split. The artist uses analog and digital media to make the audiovisual recording and composition, and disrupts the visual sense of calm with the intrusion of sound, which reminds us of the complex process of adjusting both emotionally and physically to an irreversible loss.

The collaborative work performed by **Eugenia Hernández** (Buenos Aires, ARG), **Luciana Guerra** (Santa Fe, ARG) and **Lucio Gorzalczany** (Buenos Aires, ARG) is structured in two audiovisual pieces that analyze the convergence of formal and concept searches.

Three-Voice Fugue / Fuga a tres voces was designed as a joint work: **Luciana** created the black and white paintings, **Eugenia** intervened them with colors and geometry and **Lucio** cut them and recorded them in photos and video. Starting their journey in Rosario, the pieces were worked by three individuals and inhabited different instances of time and space before reaching their final materialization. The work consists of a video that documents the whole experience, beginning to end.

Luciana, in turn, presents a second audiovisual work, which depicts her paintings in digital format, inside a virtual universe set to music by herself.

The definition of the proper and valid forms of art has been a constant subject of discussion since modern times. The acceptance of what is tangible as the absolute truth, and the recognized resources for the creation of works still impact the way in which we validate artistic productions, even the contemporary ones. There have recently been new discussions about how virtuality may be applied to the artistic universe, all of which poses new questions.

Nine artists who live in different cities and countries are working to unravel the potentials of this universe, starting from a transgressive idea of understanding the virtual space as a platform for action and innovation.

Paula Carrella
Curator

**Being Digital* is the name of the collective exhibition displayed on a digital platform on MARCH 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm (Argentina time zone); 5:00 pm (Canada time zone); 5:00 pm (Puerto Rico time zone); 10:00 pm (Germany time zone) in the context of the FlussLab 2021 Residency program.

The following artists participated in the event:

Mariana Frandsen (Canada), Alejandro López (Jujuy, ARG), Eugenia Hernández (Buenos Aires, ARG), Anamarie Sierra Pagán (Puerto Rico), Luciana Guerra (Santa Fe, ARG), Lucio Gorzalczany (Buenos Aires, ARG), María Daúd Álvarez (Santiago del Estero, ARG), Franco Martín Contreras (Mendoza, ARG) and Claudio Andrés Alessio (San Juan, ARG).

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