



VALERIE WOLF GANG

FACE OF
INTELLIGENCE

OBRAZ
INTELLIGENCE

BEAUTIFUL
ARTIFICIAL

24. 2. — 8. 4. 2022

ČUDOVITI
UMETNE

GALERIJA TOBAČNA

V središču umetniškega raziskovanja Valerie Wolf Gang leži kompleksno razmerje med človekom in tehnologijo ter vpliv slednje na družbo, predvsem na človekovo doživetje lastne identitete. Izhodišče razstave sta bila vprašanje, ali je lahko umetna inteligenca kreativna brez človekovega prispevka, in avtoričin projekt *Fluid* (2018), v okviru katerega je s pomočjo poezije nevrnske mreže učila ustvarjalnosti, pri čemer se je osredotočila na tematiko zdravega življenjskega sloga. Kot posledica večmesečnega sodelovanja z računalnikom so se začele spreminjati tudi njene vsakodnevne navade, kar je vodilo v preoblikovanje umetničnega telesa.

Osrednji del razstave je interaktivna instalacija z baročnim okvirjem, v katerega je vstavljeno digitalno zrcalo. Instalacija vsebuje tri odvoje v smislu treh gradnikov človekove samopodobe: njegovega lastnega videnja samega sebe, projekcij in želja ter vidika družbe. Prvi pogled v zrcalo obiskovalcu omogoča pogled na lastno telo v njegovi realnosti. Drugi izpostavlja obiskovalčev notranji svet, saj se ob namestitvi merilnika možganskih tokov na glavo podoba v zrcalu začne spreminjati, dodatno pa se videz podobe preoblikuje s črpanjem podatkov – denimo o vrednosti delnic, bitcoina ali temperaturi ozračja – z interneta.

Druga razstavljena dela vsebujejo veliko mero umetniških intimnih izkušenj s tehnologijo. Z njimi Valerie Wolf Gang obiskovalcu razkriva posamezne zgodbe iz zgodovine svojega raziskovanja umetne inteligence, programske opreme, predvsem pa robotike. Video v zanki tako prikazuje industrijskega robota za barvanje avtomobilov, ki ga prek učenja pozdravnega »Hello, nice to meet you« poskuša počlovečiti. Serija fotoprintov v šestih dejanjih prikazuje umetnično enomesečno sobivanje z robotom, pri čemer združuje izmišljeno in resnično zgodbo. Znotraj fiktivne pripovedi se omenjeni robot odmakne od treh zakonov robotike Asimova in si umetnico od začetrnega dejanja – poskusa odvzema skodelice kave – postopoma podreja. Na paspartuju je v binarni kodi zapisana njena življenjska zgodba, torej element resničnosti, ki hkrati nadaljuje njeno spreminjanje iz fizičnega v digitalno telo. Vseprisotnost digitalnih identitet in zahtevo današnje tehnologije po redefiniciji človeškega telesa umetnica obravnava še v grafiki s portretom izmišljene osebe. Gre za sliko, ustvarjeno s pomočjo umetne inteligence in baze podatkov, ki je zbirala podobe ljudi, z nadzornimi kamerami zabeleženih na javnih površinah. Spremlja jo video, v katerem umetnica postavlja otrokom vprašanja o identiteti upodobljenca, za katerega verjamejo, da je prava oseba, in vanj preslikavajo svojo identiteto, želje in strahove. Postavitev zaokroža kolaž, sestavljen iz arhivskih podob avtoričinega večmesečnega skeniranja kože z ročnim skenerjem v času, ko se je njeno telo med sodelovanjem z umetno inteligenco najbolj spreminjalo. Kolaž spremljajo zvok in tri fotografije, ki prikazujejo zaključek transformacije njenega fizičnega telesa.

Valerie Wolf Gang skozi raziskovanje vloge tehnologije, umetne inteligence in robotike v vsakdanjem življenju ne povezuje zgolj virtualnega spreminjanja obiskovalca s spremembami, ki jih je sama izkusila, temveč ob razpiranju vprašanj o telesu in identiteti razkriva vpliv tehnologije na posameznika in na širšo družbo.

At the centre of Valerie Wolf Gang's artistic research lies the complex relationship between human beings and technology. She is interested in the impact of technology on society and, especially, on one's perception of one's own identity. The starting point for the exhibition is the question of whether AI can be creative without human input, which is explored in her project *Fluid* (2018) in which she used poetry to teach neural networks creativity, focusing on the topic of healthy lifestyles. As a consequence of her several months-long collaboration with the computer, her daily habits started to change, leading to a transformation of her body.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is an interactive installation featuring a baroque frame embedded with a digital mirror. The installation contains three derivations in terms of the three building blocks of self-image of a person: one's own perception, projections and desires, and the perspective of society. The first look into the mirror allows us to see our own body in its reality. The second highlights our inner world, as the image in the mirror begins to change when the brainwave monitor is placed on the head. The appearance of the image is then further transformed by the extraction of data from the internet, such as the value of shares, bitcoin...

The other works on display contain a great deal of the artist's intimate experience with technology, with Valerie Wolf Gang revealing stories from the history of her research into AI, software and, above all, robotics. A video loop shows an industrial car-painting robot and her trying to humanise it by teaching it the greeting "Hello, nice to meet you!" A series of photo prints, depicting the artist's month-long cohabitation with a robot in six acts, combines a fictional and a true story. Within the fictional narrative, the robot deviates from Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics and gradually subjugates her – starting from the initial act of attempting to take a cup of coffee away from her. On the passepertout, her life story is written in binary code; it is an element of reality that at the same time continues her transformation from a physical to a digital body. The ubiquity of digital identities and the demand of today's technology to redefine the human body are further explored in a graphic portrait of an AI-generated image, which mined images of people recorded in public areas by surveillance cameras. It is accompanied by a video in which the artist poses questions to children about the identity of the figure they believe to be a real person and onto which they map their own identities, desires, and fears. The installation is rounded off by a collage – made up of archival images of several months of scanning her skin with a hand-held scanner – that captures moments when her body was undergoing the most significant transformation due to weight loss in the course of her collaboration with AI. The collage is accompanied by sound and three photographs showing the completed transformation of her physical body.

Valerie Wolf Gang's exploration of the role of technology, AI, and robotics in everyday life not only connects the virtual transformation of the visitor with the changes she herself has experienced but also reveals the impact of technology on the individual and on society at large by tackling issues of the body and identity.

Muzej in galerije Mesta Ljubljane Galerija Tobačna

Valerie Wolf Gang 24. 2.–8. 4. 2022

Čudoviti obraz umetne inteligence The Beautiful Face of Artificial Intelligence

Vljudno vas vabimo na odprtje razstave, ki bo v četrtek, 24. februarja 2022, med 17. in 19. uro v Galeriji Tobačna.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening of the exhibition on February 24, between 5 and 7 pm at the Tobačna Gallery.

Kustosinja / Curated by: Alenka Trebušak

Tehnična realizacija / Technical realization: Žiga Pavlovič • **Produkcija / Production:** MGML/Galerija Tobačna, Kibla, UV Arthouse, KD Galerija GT • **Koprodukcija / Co-production:** Galerija SC Zagreb, Center RUK • **Zahvala / Acknowledgements:** DFKI - German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, Goethe Institute, Urša Bonelli Potokar, Sara Mikelić, Heike Leonhard, dr. Daniel Sonntag, Festival Bobri, Tadeja Pungerčar, OŠ Prežihov Voranc, Andrej Koritnik



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Odprto:

torek – petek
11.00 – 19.00

Sobote, nedelje,
ponedeljki in prazniki zaprto.

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday
11 am – 7 pm

Closed on Saturdays,
Sundays, Mondays and
public holidays.

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