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Dispatulo

Press Release

Online Exhibition

Pierre Huyghe. Of Ideal

hauserwirth.com

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Exhibited for the first time in a digital format, this online exhibition is a chance to experience Pierre Huyghe's 'mental image' works – a product of imagination between two types of intelligences, human and artificial. Huyghe's latest iteration, entitled 'Of Ideal', was first exhibited in Okayama, Japan in 2019 and will now be shown online in a series of three videos made up of deep image reconstructions, real-time generated reconfigurations, and sound. This exhibition marks the first time that Hauser & Wirth will display a digital installation within the framework of an online exhibition and will be laid out in an entirely new format on screen.

Pierre Huyghe's first 'mental image' work, 'Umwelt', was shown at the Serpentine Galleries in London as part of a solo exhibition. A set of elementary components, building blocks of ideas, were given to a person as images or descriptions to be imagined, while being scanned by an fMRI. Among them are biological entities, early prehistoric tools, machine, codes and artworks.

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What has been imagined by a person is thus made visible using an artificial neural network that learns and progressively reconstructs mental images from brain activity. Human imagination has been externalised without the subject predetermining the outcome, bypassing all modes of expression such as language or the senses.

For 'Of Ideal', a set of personal recurring memories, situations, were given as material to be imagined. The attempts of the network to recognize the mental images, as a process rather than a final optimization, is presented as raw material. The materialized mental images react to exposure to external factors and intelligent life forms, endlessly modifying its plasticity. In addition, new reconstructed images, generated in real time, infinitely incorporates features of their surroundings into the mental images appearance.

Included as part of the exhibition is a conversation between Pierre Huyghe and Hans Ulrich-Obrist at the occasion of 'Umwelt' at the Serpentine Galleries in 2018.

About the artist

Pierre Huyghe was born in Paris in 1962. His works often present themselves as complex systems characterized by a wide range of life forms, inanimate things and technologies. These systems uncertain and indifferent are conceived as speculative fictions and generate an immersive, continuous and constantly evolving environment.

Recent solo exhibitions include "Umwelt" at the Serpentine Gallery, London, UK (2018); "After A Life Ahead" at Skulptur Projekte Münster, Germany (2017); "The Roof Garden" Commission at the Metropolitan Museum, New York (2015), among others. In 2012 -2014, a major retrospective of Huyghe's work travelled from the Centre Pompidou, Paris to the Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany and to Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA. Huyghe has received a number of awards, including the Nasher Sculpture Prize (2017); Kurt Schwitters Prize (2015); Roswitha Haftmann Award (2013), the Smithsonian Museum's Contemporary Artist Award (2010), the Hugo Boss Prize, Guggenheim Museum (2002), the Special Award from the Jury of the Venice Biennale (2001), and a DAAD in Berlin (1999-2000). Most recently, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Okayama Art Summit 2019.

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For additional information, please contact:

Alice Haguenauer, Hauser & Wirth, alicehaguenauer@hauserwirth.com, +447780904011 (Europe)

Matthew Brown, Sutton, +447715 901047, Matthew@suttoncomms.com (Europe)

Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc., info@andreaschwan.com, +1 917 371 5023 (USA)

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Pierre Huyghe

Of Ideal, 2019-ongoing

Courtesy of the artist, TARO NASU, Marian

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Of Ideal, 2019 - ongoing

Deep image reconstructions, real-time generated reconstructions, face recognition, screens, sensors, sound.

If the Snake, Okayama Art Summit, 2019

Photo: Ola Rindel

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