

Shu Lea Cheang and Mark Amerika

OPENING EVENT: SEEDS UNDERGROUND PARTY,
SAT 31 AUGUST 2013, 2-5PM

EXHIBITION ENDS SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2013
OPEN FRIDAY TO SUNDAY 11-5PM



"Problematizing our ideas of physical and intellectual communities, public and private space, poetry and information, Cheang's installation refuses the separation of mind and matter that so much new technology insists upon. As with all of Cheang's work, you can either play along or play with yourself."

Lawrence Chua, 1996

"Exploiting the highly mutable 'skin' of the Internet, Cheang reveals how this emerging virtual environment enables individuals to inhabit and play with different gender roles and characters."

Caitlin Jones, 1998

"Developing projects on the net, filming with mobile phones, remixing common moments and figures of today's culture in a VJ-like audiovisual rhythm, Amerika redefines the characteristics of today's culture and opens up the possibilities for new interpretations and thoughts from the audience itself."

Daphne Dragona, 2009

"Every now and then, Mark Amerika pops up somewhere. There is recognition, there is a check in the mail. No artist can exist entirely outside the grid. But he marks the Amerikan landscape with his presence to gesture to what lies somewhere beneath it, hidden in its shadow. Then he's off again, unmarking the way elsewhere."

McKenzie Wark, 1999

This exhibition by Mark Amerika (US) and Shu Lea Cheang (US/FR) at Furtherfield Gallery marks a significant moment for contemporary art. Amerika and Cheang are both 'net native' artists. They share many of the obsessions of the growing multitude of artists who have grown up with the net since the early 1990s.

They are also big "names" - internationally established artists who regularly show their work, to critical acclaim, at contemporary art galleries around the world. They have crossed over into the mainstream art world whilst maintaining a critical edge.

Amerika is a media artist, novelist, and theorist of Internet and remix culture, named a "Time Magazine 100 Innovator" in their continuing series of features on the most influential artists, scientists, entertainers and philosophers into the 21st Century.

Cheang is a multi-media artist who works with net-based installation, social interface and film production. She has been a member of the Paper Tiger Television collective since 1981 and *BRANDON*, a project exploring issues of gender fusion and techno-body, was an early web-based artwork commissioned by the Guggenheim Museum (NY) in 1998.

Both artists continue to shape and be shaped by contemporary networked media art cultures of remix, glitch, social and environmental encounters.

Shu Lea Cheang and Mark Amerika at Furtherfield Gallery provides a physical interface in a local setting in the heart of a North London park to the thriving, international, networked art scene.

EXHIBITED WORKS

The exhibition features Cheang's *UKI viral love* installation and *Composting the Net*. These are shown alongside pieces from *The Museum of Glitch Aesthetics (MOGA)*, Amerika's latest work in his collaborative series of transmedia narratives.

UKI viral love (2009 - ongoing) - Shu Lea Cheang

The exhibition features large stills from two performance installations. *UKI viral love* is the sequel to Cheang's acclaimed cyberpunk movie *I.K.U.* (premiered at Sundance Film Festival, 2000) conceived in two parts - a viral performance and a viral game. The story is about coders dispatched by the Internet porn enterprise, GENOM Corp, to collect human orgasm data for mobile phone plug-ins and consumption. In a post-net crash era they become data deprived and these coders are suddenly dumped into an e-trashscape environment where coders, twitters, networkers are forced to scavenge from techno-waste.



UKI - Virus St. Maria (Maria Llopis), Shu Lea Cheang, 2009. Photo by Rocio Campana

In 2009, Cheang moved into the art studio at Barcelona's Hangar medialab with 4 tons of E-trash, collected in Barcelona's city recycling plant in one day. Amidst the rubble of wires, cables, boards, keyboards and computers, along with the coders and the hackers, UKI the defunct replicants are part of the e-trashscape seeking parts and codes to resurrect themselves.

UKI viral love is developed with collaborations and residencies at HangarBCN [artistas residentes] (Barcelona, Spain), Medialab Prado [Playlab] & [Desvisulizar] (Madrid, Spain) and, LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial [Plataforma Cero] (Gijón, Spain). The work presented at Furtherfield Gallery is the first physical installation of *UKI* in a gallery setting.

Composting The Net (2012) - Shu Lea Cheang

Composting the Net sources Internet net cultures' accumulated data. It appropriates open (un)moderated

mailing list communities, used for collaboration, sharing information and dialogue, and reprocesses the information into a virtual compost. For this exhibition Cheang composts the Spectre mailing list, a channel for practical information and exchange for media art and culture in “Deep Europe”, initiated in August 2001. The abundant info-data is reused and given extra life - an artistic legacy beyond its original purpose. It is also a celebration of the independent spirit of net culture that exists outside of corporate dominated Web 2.0 platforms such as Facebook.

The Museum of Glitch Aesthetics - MOGA (2012) - Mark Amerika

Amerika's *The Museum of Glitch Aesthetics (MOGA)* features the work of The Artist 2.0, an online persona whose personal mythology and body of digital artworks are rapidly being canonized into the annals of art history. The narrative traces the life of the artist and his ongoing commitment to a practice of 'glitch aesthetics'. *MOGA* features a wide array of artworks intentionally corrupted by technological processes, including net art, digital video art, digitally manipulated still images, game design, stand-up comedy, sound art, and electronic literature.



8-Bit Heaven (Manchester 9) - Museum of Glitch Aesthetics, Mark Amerika, 2012

Featured in the Furtherfield Gallery exhibition are three works from the *MOGA* series: *Lake Como Remix*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *8-Bit Heaven*.

Museum of Glitch Aesthetics was commissioned by Abandon Normal Devices for the 2012 AND Festival.

EVENT: SEEDS UNDERGROUND PARTY



Linz Seeds Underground Party, June 2012

Germinate! Broadcast! Trade! Track!

In conjunction with *Shu Lea Cheang and Mark Amerika* exhibition opening, Furtherfield is pleased to host Shu Lea Cheang's Seeds Underground Party on Saturday 31 August, 2-5pm.

The monopolising tendencies of large seed producers in the USA and the latest attempts of the EU to draft a new seeds directive, motivate this invitation to exchange seeds in joyful people-to-people gatherings. Join us for a seed exchange party where packets of seeds change hands and go underground in the fields around Finsbury Park and beyond.

Bring your self-harvested homegrown seeds of sorts! Sign on to trade seeds, to adopt and germinate, to broadcast and track their distribution. Share some food, drinks and seeds stories while we celebrate the harvest season together in the relaxing setting of Finsbury Park.

More info: www.furtherfield.org/programmes/event/seedsunderground+party

SHU LEA CHEANG: ART, QUEER TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIAL INTERFERENCE

To coincide with the exhibition, The White Building hosts a special talk by Shu Lea Cheang who will be in conversation with curator and writer, Omar Kholeif.

02 Sep 2013, 7pm

<http://thewhitebuilding.org.uk/whats-on/shu-lea-cheang-art-queer-technologies-and-social-interference>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mark Amerika

Mark Amerika's work has been exhibited internationally at venues such as the Whitney Biennial of American Art, the Denver Art Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, and the Walker Art Center. In 2009-2010, The National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, Greece, hosted Amerika's comprehensive retrospective exhibition entitled UNREALTIME. He is the author of many books including *remixthebook* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011) and his collection of artist writings entitled *META/DATA: A Digital Poetics* (The MIT Press, 2007). Amerika is a Professor of Art and Art History at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Principal Research Fellow in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science at La Trobe University.

<http://markamerika.com>

Shu Lea Cheang

As an artist, conceptualist, filmmaker, networker, Cheang constructs networked installation and multi-player performance in participatory impromptu mode. She drafts sci-fi narratives in her film scenario and artwork imagination. She builds social interface and open network that permits public participation. Engaged in media activism with transgressive plots for two decades (the 80s and 90s) in New York City, Cheang concluded her NYC period with the first Guggenheim Museum web art commission/collection *BRANDON* (1998-1999). Cheang has expanded her cross-genre-gender borderhack performative works since relocating in Eurozone in 2000. Currently situated in post-net BioNet zone, Cheang is composting the city, the net while mutating virus and hosting seeds underground parties.

<http://mauvaiscontact.info>

ABOUT FURTHERFIELD

Co-founded by Ruth Catlow and Marc Garrett in 1997, Furtherfield provides platforms for art, technology and social change. Furtherfield is now a dynamic, creative and social nerve centre where upwards of 26,000 contributors worldwide have built a visionary culture around co-creation – swapping and sharing code, music, images, video and ideas.

Furtherfield Gallery, formerly HTTP, has established an international reputation as London's first dedicated gallery for networked and media art, hosting regular exhibitions and public events since 2004. With the support of Haringey Council the gallery is now based at McKenzie Pavilion in the heart of Finsbury Park.

FURTHERFIELD GALLERY

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