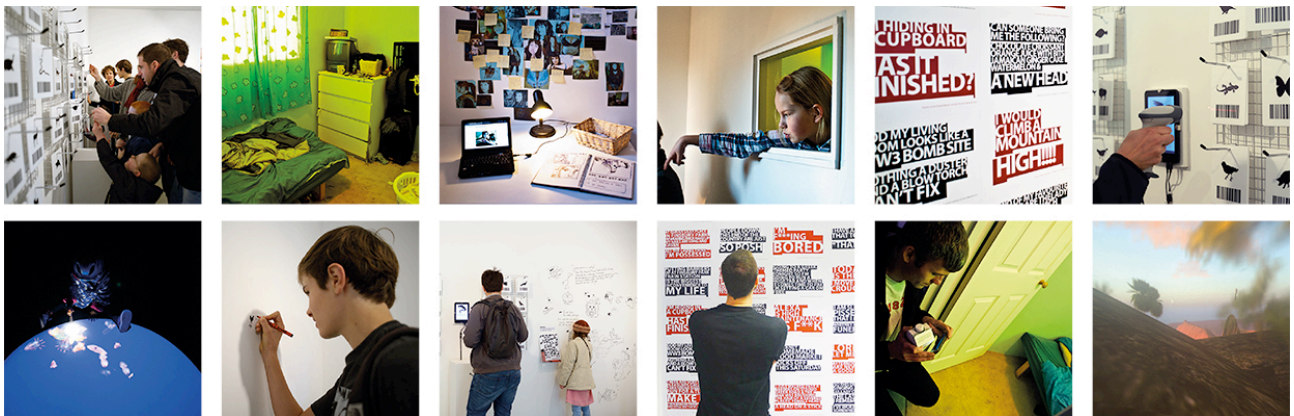


Press Release: January 2014

Furtherfield and CultureCode present
DIGITAL ZOO: Life from the world wild web

UK TOUR 2014
Leeds, London, Sunderland - February to September 2014

Andy Deck | Mary Flanagan | Genetic Moo | Pete Gomes | Liz Sterry | Thomson & Craighead | Transnational Temps



Pioneering artists-led online community and media art organisation Furtherfield presents *DIGITAL ZOO: Life from the world wild web*, a touring exhibition that invites audiences to explore and marvel at new patterns of human and digital behaviours in the network age.

DIGITAL ZOO features experimental software, interactive videos, installations, workshops, networked and mobile media created by internationally recognised artists inspired to explore the ways in which our lives are being shaped by digital technologies, and challenge the concept that digital art is only accessible in galleries or online.

Since 2008 artist group **Genetic Moo** have been developing a series of interactive video installations using choreographed video clips that respond in a variety of life-like ways to user motion and touch. With *Animacules* they take inspiration from the 19th century sea life illustrations of Ernst Haeckel and the work of the 17th century Dutch scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek to create a dark sea of wiggling, luminescent creatures that gorge on torch light.

Internationally renowned artist duo **Thomson & Craighead** create a new site-specific installation especially for the *DIGITAL ZOO* tour. A wall of propaganda style posters of the Tweets and other status updates drawn from people in the local area of the tour venues, offers a poetic snapshot of the invisible conversations taking place, "the idle mutterings of ourselves to ourselves as a form of concrete poetry." The work is based on the artists' *London Wall* series shown at the Museum of London (2010), Furtherfield Gallery (2012) and Carroll/Fletcher (2013).

Liz Sterry is an artist fascinated with the way people use the Internet to express themselves. In *Kay's Blog* she presents an exact physical replica of a young woman's bedroom, recreated through information, images and notes about her daily life that the *real* Kay posted on her public blog. With social media often used as a platform for self-expression and performance, the work questions how much of ourselves we share online with strangers without even realising it.

With his novel use of Twitter, US artist **Andy Deck** savours the wildness of everyday language with people around the world, inspired by the wealth of nature-related sayings passed down over centuries. He invites audiences to help him build a bestiary of animal idioms using social media and an interactive installation.

Experimental filmmaker **Pete Gomes** invited residents in Sunderland with no acting experience to participate in a 45 minute long acting session. Each participant was directed to perform on camera for a single five-minute take. Screened as a series, *Cycle of Purposes* questions reality and artifice by exploring how thoughts and feelings are acted, amplified, exaggerated and stylised every day in response to different people and places.

Mary Flanagan travels overland and undersea, in virtual worlds built and inhabited by other virtual beings. *[borders]* is a video documentation of her walks in beautiful and hypnotic landscapes that expose the boundaries of the virtual world by testing its edges. Her walks are inspired by Thoreau, the great American nature writer and walker, who, avoiding highways, chose instead to wander in order to understand the spiritual possibilities of the landscape.

Mall of the Wild by **Transnational Temps** is a new commission created especially for *Digital Zoo*. Players help the famous artist Magritte to find fake wildlife in the shopping centre. Equipped with a store map and a smart phone app, they have limited time to find a number of representations of wild animals visible in the products of the shopping centre. They map rare species and share their wildlife documentary photos in the online "Ceci n'est pas..." collection via social networks.

Furtherfield is the UK's leading organisation for arts, technology and social change. Since 1997 they have created online and physical spaces and places for people to come together to develop and create critical experimental art and digital technologies on their own terms. They opened London's first dedicated gallery for international, networked, new media art in 2004.

In creating *DIGITAL ZOO*, Furtherfield believe that digital networks and social media offer the potential for a more open relationship between artists and audiences, changing the life of an artwork in the world, and the ways in which people encounter it, and sometimes collaborate in its creation.

Personal information is exchanged with increasing frequency, and daily lives are becoming ever more public, as if in a public zoo. People are both animals and visitors; hunters, trackers, observers, naturalists and zookeepers; and educators and pundits. The longer-term social effects of this collective public performance are awaited...

Digital Zoo is curated and produced by Furtherfield in collaboration with Culture Code and Land Securities.

Digital Zoo is supported by Arts Council England through the Strategic Touring programme.

Crow_Sourcing was made possible with funding from the Jerome Foundation, and was a 2012 Commission of New Radio and Performing Arts, Inc. for its Turbulence website.

For further information, images or interviews, please contact Alessandra Scapin, Furtherfield Producer on ale@furtherfield.org or +44(0)7717 887923 or info@furtherfield.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Touring schedule

14-23 February 2014 – Trinity Leeds, Albion St, Leeds, Yorkshire LS1 5AT

04-13 April 2014 – Lewisham Shopping Centre, Molesworth St, London SE13 7HB

23 May - 01 June 2014 – The Bridges, Sunderland SR1 3DR

25 July - 03 August 2014 – West 12 Shopping Centre, Shepherds Bush, London W12 8PP

29 August - 07 September 2014 – White Rose, Dewsbury Rd, Leeds LS11 8LU

Special Events

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of creative workshops inspired by *Crow_Sourcing* for children aged 6-11 years old. For a more detailed programme, please contact Alessandra Scapin at ale@furtherfield.org.

ANDY DECK (www.andydeck.com) is a Net artist and software culture jammer who specialises in collaborative processes and electronic media. In addition to numerous online exhibitions, his work has appeared in exhibitions like *net_condition* (ZKM), *Unleashed Devices* (Watermans Art Centre), and *Animations* (PS1-MoMA). He is also a co-founder of Transnational Temps, a media arts collective concerned with making Earth Art for the 21st Century. In 2011 Deck received first prize in the interactive division of the LÚMEN_EX Digital Art Awards. Deck's work, currently shown by the Whitney Museum of American Art's Artport and the Tate Online, has been commissioned by these and other prestigious institutions. Deck lives and works in New York City.

Mary Flanagan (www.maryflanigan.com) is an American whose work ranges from game-inspired systems to computer viruses, embodied interfaces to interactive texts; these works have been exhibited internationally at venues including the Laboral Art Center, The Whitney Museum of American Art, SIGGRAPH, Beall Center, The Banff Centre, The Moving Image Center, Steirischer Herbst, Ars Electronica, Artist's Space, The Guggenheim Museum New York, Incheon Digital Arts Festival South Korea, Writing Machine Collective Hong Kong, Maryland Institute College of Art, and venues in Brazil, France, UK, Canada, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Australia. Her three books in English include *Critical Play* (2009) with MIT Press. Flanagan founded the Tiltfactor game research laboratory in 2003, where researchers create game interventions for social change.

British artist duo **GENETIC MOO (www.geneticmoo.com)** has shown extensively at galleries and festivals including the De La Warr Pavilion (2010), Watermans (2010), The Wellcome Collection (2011), and Glastonbury (2011). One of their works, *Starfish*, received a John Lansdown Award for Interactive Digital Art at Eurographics (2007) and was nominated for an Erotic Award (2012). The duo has just been awarded the inaugural Founder's Prize as part of the 2013 Lumen Prize, which recognises excellence in the creation of digital fine art.

PETE GOMES (www.mutantfilm.com) is a filmmaker and artist working across all forms of moving image. His works have been shown across Europe, India, Russia, Tasmania, Iceland, South America and USA, including: Institute of Contemporary Art, Whitechapel Gallery, Architecture Foundation, Royal Opera House, Southbank Centre, Gimpel Fils, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Barcelona Centre for Contemporary Culture, Stedelijk Museum, Vienna Museum of Contemporary Art, Leeds International Film Festival, Sonar and others. In 2013 he received an award from architect Bernard Tschumi for his film Path 1 at Cinecity Architectural Film Project in Melbourne. He has collaborated extensively including: Shobana Jeyasingh, Michael Nyman, Errollyn Wallen, Jocelyn Pook, Donnacha Dennehy, Throbbing Gristle and Scanner.

LIZ STERRY (www.lizsterry.com) is an Essex-based artist currently whose works use different mediums including performance photography, video and installations. Communication has now become a key theme in her work. She aspires to make art that invites people to question what they think they already know.

THOMSON & CRAIGHEAD (www.thomson-craighead.net) are London-based visual artists, who work with video, sound and the internet. Much of their recent work looks at live networks like the web and how they are changing the way we all understand the world around us. Thomson & Craighead have shown extensively at galleries, film festivals and for site-specific commissions in the UK and internationally. Venues include: the British Film Institute, London; SPACE, London; FACT, Liverpool; DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts; H-I-C-A Highland Institute of Contemporary Art, Dalcrombie, Scotland; bitforms, New York; New Museum, New York; and the Berkeley Art Museum, California. Their work is part of public collections at Harris Museum and British Council Collection. They are shortlisted artists for the Samsung Art Prize 2012. Recent awards include Current (2011) and Vital Spark (2005).

TRANSNATIONAL TEMPS (www.transnationaltemps.net/) is an international arts collective concerned with ecology, sustainability, and media. Since its formation in 2001 it has produced a series of critically acclaimed works and exhibitions under the banner Earth Art for the 21st Century. Working primarily from Europe and the United States, works to date have emphasised participation, tactical media, and spanning the sometimes awkward divide between activist advocacy and aesthetics.

FURTHERFIELD

Furtherfield is the UK's leading organisation for arts, technology and social change. Since 1997 Furtherfield has created online and physical spaces and places for people to come together to develop and create critical experimental art and digital technologies on their own terms. Furtherfield Gallery and Commons are based in the heart of London's Finsbury Park. This serves as a hub to connect and activate local and international communities of artists, technologists, thinkers and doers. www.furtherfield.org

CULTURE CODE

The CultureCode Initiative develops opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration through innovation processes and rapid prototyping. We specialise in the fields of art and digital culture. www.culturecode.co.uk