



# NEW WORLD ORDER

20 MAY - 25 JUNE 2017  
FURTHERFIELD GALLERY

A mysterious and controversial technology is among us. The Blockchain underpins digital currencies and makes possible dramatic new conceptions of global governance and economy, that could permanently enrich or demote the role of humans - depending on who you talk to.

A self-owning forest with ideas of expansion, a self-replicating android flower, a tale of lost innocence, a DIY money making rig, a Hippocratic Oath for software developers, a five minute marriage contract; this exhibition presented by Furtherfield shows us life with blockchain technologies - through artworks by Jaya Klara Brekke, Pete Gomes, Rob Myers, Primavera De Filippi of O'Khaos, TerraO, Lina Theodorou and xfx (aka Ami Clarke)

Imagine a world in which responsibility for many aspects of life (reproduction, decision-making, organisation, nurture, stewardship) are mechanized and automated. Transferred, once and for all from natural and social systems into a secure, networked, digital ledger of transactions and computer-executed contracts.

The artworks in this exhibition envision future world-making by machines, markets and natural processes, free from interference by states and other human institutions.

The exhibition is part of a large scale programme of publications, workshops and talks that brings together leading international artists and writers from across the globe. Launching at Furtherfield Gallery in London's Finsbury Park 19 May - 25 June 2017, the exhibition will tour to Aksioma (Ljubljana, Slovenia) in January 2018 and Drugo More (Rijeka, Croatia) in February 2018 as part of State Machines: Art, Work, and Identity in an Age of Planetary-Scale Computation with support from the European Commission.

'*Artists Re:thinking the Blockchain*' produced in collaboration with the experimental publishing group Torque and Liverpool University Press will be launched in July. Contributors include Helen Kaplinsky, Rob Myers, Hito Steyerl, Ben Vickers and Cecilia Wee. Chris Speed and the team from the Design Informatics Department at Edinburgh University will be embedding a new proto-blockchain experiment throughout print and digital versions enabling readers to 'like' different parts of the book, sub-linked to a financial trading algorithm.

## EXHIBITED WORKS

*Plantoid* is an autonomous blockchain based artwork that reproduces itself, harnessing the forces of aesthetic beauty and automated governance. When the metal sculpture of a flowering plant receives a certain number of Bitcoins, it commissions an artist to create a new artwork. All those who contributed to funding the *Plantoid* can set the rules surrounding the genetic traits (the dna) and the soul (the governance) of the new "child" *Plantoid*. Exhibition visitors will be able to buy Bitcoins to tip the sculpture and determine how the *Plantoid* will evolve.



*Plantoid* by O'Khaos, since 2015

*TerraO* is an artwork and prototype for a self-owning, self-exploiting forest by **Paul Seidler, Paul Kolling and Max Hampshire**. Initiated by humans, over time the forest creates capital by selling licenses for the logging of its trees and utilising of its assets through automated processes, smart contracts and blockchain technology.

It sells its raw materials, accumulates capital, buys itself and eventually expands into new territories. For this exhibition, the *TerraO* forest employs gallery hosts to cultivate 5 new saplings and so expand its holdings from a forest just East of Berlin to Finsbury Park.



From installation by *TerraO*, since 2016

Both *Plantoid* and *TerraO* demonstrate how blockchains are restructuring the relationship between nature, art and capital through software programs that form decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) on the blockchain. They help us to reimagine the possible impact of encoding the parameters of all future physical forms and action; the consequences of cooperating peer-to-peer and at scale across human and non-human divides.

Satoshi means clear thinking, quick witted and wise. It is also the name of the anonymous founder(s) of Bitcoin and the blockchain. The *Satoshi Oath* by Jaya Klara Brekke and Elias Haase is a method for developers to think clearly about what kind of relations get chained together in the coding of new blockchain applications, and their possible effects on people and the environment. Using three main properties of blockchain technology - immutability, neutrality and decentralisation - *the Satoshi Oath* presents a set of blocks from which to build an ethics for new blockchain projects: Power, Change, Delegation, Disclosure, Dissensus and Exodus.



Digital image, *Technology does not equal Neutrality* by Jaya Klara Brekke

Alongside Satoshi Oath Klara Brekke's images of industrial city landscapes are overlaid with corrections to techno-utopian formulas.

“Such future. Very crypto.  
Much catastrophe. Wow.”

*Bad Shibe* is a sci-fi novella by Rob Myers illustrated by Lina Theodorou that invites us to imagine what kind of society emerges when a system designed to verify the transfer of digital assets is combined with a world where reputation is based on “followers” and “likes”. The story deals with the implications of a new wave of fully financialised planetary-scale automation and the struggle to discern right from wrong when human and machine agency merges. It also invites us to think of humans and societies as much as the effects of technology.



*Bad Shibe* illustrations by Lina Theodorou

*untitled, data collection from domestic ether mining rig*, by xfx (aka Ami Clarke) is a video as data capture, showing glimpses of the material parts of an ether mining rig, that conveys the energy used and sweat equity of a DIY cryptocurrency prospector with finely tuned financial calculations, of a not so free, money mining system. The data is a component of a larger puzzle across different events and sites initiated at *A Throw Of The Dice*, an exhibition and workshop series at Banner Repeater in 2016 that considered some of the contradictory claims made for blockchain technology. Listen to audio online at: [x-fx.org](http://x-fx.org).



Film still from *untitled, data collection from domestic ether mining rig*, by xfx (aka Ami Clarke), 2016

*The Blockchain - Change Everything Forever*, a Furtherfield film directed by Pete Gomes was created to diversify the people involved in thinking about blockchain technologies by bringing together leading thinkers, computer scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and activists to answer some of the key questions: What can a blockchain do? Who builds this new reality? How will we rule ourselves? How will the future be different because of the Blockchain?



Film still from *The Blockchain - Change Everything Forever*, a Furtherfield film directed by Pete Gomes, 2016

Also brought to us by the Design Informatics team at the University of Edinburgh our events programme includes blockchain workshops and weddings. *Handfastr - making commitments wherever you are* explores the potential for the blockchain to reconfigure social pledges. Taking marriage as an example of a social contract, *Handfastr* whittles marriage down to a financial agreement between two different parties, adapting the practical and functional aspects

into a platform that enables impromptu financial commitments between people in public space via temporary agreement using smart phones.



Created by **Corina Angheloiu, Max Dovey and James Stewart** at the Blockchain Body Storming lab, part of the Design Informatics programme at Edinburgh University. **Wedding event day - blockchain special:** On Saturday 24th June from 11am-5pm you can have the summer wedding you always dreamed of! 5 minute marriages via *Handfastr* will be taking place at Furtherfield Gallery. No booking required, just turn up in your chosen attire.

## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, WORKSHOPS & WEDDINGS

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***Manpowertop*** - free workshop by Network Diagnostics  
Saturday 10 June, 2-5pm, Furtherfield Commons  
Join Network Diagnostics (Dave Young and Niall Docherty) to discover how the promotional media of Silicon Valley companies envision the role of technology in society. In partnership with [Antiuniversity](#) Booking is essential for this FREE event

***GeoCoin - Bodystorming Blockchain in the City***  
Friday 23 June 10-5pm, Furtherfield Commons, Finsbury Park

A day of design-based research using the GeoCoin platform to explore novel ways of reconsidering and reinventing currency through location-specific value transactions. How can money be reprogrammed to interact with or react to everyday practices of value exchange in and around the city? Explore these and more questions with the Design Informatics team from the University of Edinburgh.

Booking is essential for this FREE event

This workshop is part of the ESRC funded research project After Money lead by Design Informatics at the University of Edinburgh.

**Book launch - Artists Re:thinking the Blockchain**  
**RESCHEDULED - Date TBC**

'Artists Re:thinking the Blockchain' produced in collaboration with the experimental publishing group Torque and Liverpool University Press

**Wedding event day - blockchain special**  
Saturday 24 June from 11am-5pm

Ever wanted to join your partner in bitcoin matrimony? Or wanted to join another partnership for a short time only? You've come to the right place. For this day only, you can record your short-term bitcoin union via *Handfastr* on the blockchain in an immutable and ever growing ledger of bitcoin marriages at the Furtherfield Gallery. A project developed by the Design Informatics team at Edinburgh University in collaboration with James Stewart, Max Dovey & Corina Angheloiu.

This project is part of the ESRC funded research project After Money lead by Design Informatics at the University of Edinburgh.

JAYA KLARA BREKKE

Jaya Klara Brekke works across theory, technology and design and is currently writing a PhD on the political geographies of blockchain infrastructures at Durham University. The Distributing Chains research project looks concepts of authority, sovereignty, trust and consensus and trace these as they are assumed, encoded and executed through blockchain technologies. She is based between London, Athens and Durham.

xfx (aka AMI CLARKE)

Ami Clarke is an artist whose work considers models of mass behavioural procedures, such as the financial markets, in anticipation of new behaviours emerging from news produced/distributed primarily through social media, as people seemingly act in groups at a level of pre-verbal, emotional intensity, arriving at what has been described as a post-truth politics. She is founder of Banner Repeater: a reading room with a public Archive of Artists Publishing, and project space; opening up an experimental space for others, on a working train station platform at Hackney Downs station, London. She has recently exhibited and curated works at the ICA, Dundee, Wysing Arts Centre, Museo Del Chopo Mexico City, Hayward Gallery. She commissions new artists/writers works through Banner Repeater, and several publishing imprints, inc Un-Publish.

PETE GOMES

Pete Gomes 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, Scanner, Michael Nyman, Errollyn Wallen, Jocelyn Pook, Donnacha Dennehy and Throbbing Gristle. He is currently working on his PhD in improvisation, developing new working methods

for Improvising Cinema across both production and performance.

ELIAS HAASE

Elias Haase is interested in alternative pathways for technological futures and how they intersect with life. He is a critic of the homogenising impact of tech-savvy elites and tries to help crash the gates so that as many different people as possible can take part in shaping the future of technology.

Elias is one of the founders of B9lab, conducting training and research around blockchain and decentralised applications.

PAUL KOLLING

Paul Kolling is a media artist and designer living in Berlin, Germany. After some time spent working as a carpenter, he moved to Berlin to study visual communication at the University of the Arts. Since 2014 he has been a student of the new media class of Prof. Joachim Sauter and Jussi Ängeslevä. He works at the intersection of media art, design research and industrial design, and strives to explore the interaction between (new) materials, objects and new technologies. TerraO was originally developed in the Digitale Klasse at the University of Arts, Berlin by Paul and Paul Seidler.

ROB MYERS

Rob Myers is an artist, hacker, and writer. For more than two decades his work has probed and clarified the significance to society of practices in expressive and engineering cultures, from the apparently mundane and bureaucratic to the deeply mysterious. Through his artworks, many of which take the form of software, he plays with concepts of art, value, authorship and creation in the age of digital networks.

O'KHAOS AND PRIMAVERA DE FILIPPI

O'Khaos Creations is a collective of artists, eager to explore creativity through interactive installations, kinetic sculptures and mechanical contraptions constructed from recycled materials, all licensed under Creative Commons licenses. The collective was co-founded by Primavera de Filippi in 2010. As a legal researcher, artist and coder, Primavera De Filippi explores the intersection between law, technology and art. Primavera produced the genesis Plantoid and has since then been working on creating the ecosystem to ensure the evolution of the other Plantoids.

## PAUL SEIDLER

Paul Seidler, a artist/interaction designer living and working in Berlin. Since 2013, he studies at the University of the Arts in the digital media class by Prof. Joachim Sauter. While studying he worked at a range of research facilities including the Design Research Lab and the Hybrid Plattform. His projects and papers have been presented at Leap Berlin, CTM, Dutch Design Week and ecocore. TerraO was originally developed in the Digitale Klasse at the University of Arts, Berlin by Paul and Paul Kolling.

## LINA THEODOROU

Lina Theodorou lives and works in Berlin and Athens, primarily through video and installations.

She has participated in shows at Bozar, center for fine arts, Brussels, Museumsquartier, Vienna, National museum of contemporary art, Athens, EMAF, European media art festival, Osnabrueck, Deste Foundation, Athens, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Museum Fridericianum, Kassel, Macedonian Museum Of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, 8th international Istanbul Biennial, 6th ev+a Limerick Biennial, 53rd International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, 11th International Architecture Exhibition Venice Biennial, Impakt festival, Utrecht, State Museum Of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Benaki Museum, Athens, Alexander S. Onassis Foundation Cultural Center, Museum of Rome in Trastevere, Rome, Biennial of the moving image, Buenos Aires.

## ABOUT FURTHERFIELD

Furtherfield provides diverse access points for the creation, authoring and appreciation of art forms that arise from networked and digital culture. Through exhibitions, labs and debates around today's important questions, people explore the expressive and democratic potential of our artistic and technological cultures – locally, nationally & internationally.

[www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)

## FURTHERFIELD GALLERY

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## ART DATA MONEY

Through Furtherfield's programme of labs, debates and exhibitions artists are stimulating debate around the future of blockchain and testing alternative economies for arts in the network age.



### More info:

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[www.furtherfield.org/artdatamoney](http://www.furtherfield.org/artdatamoney)

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