

Conference: The Aesthetics of Bio-machines and the Question of Life

June 13-14, 2024

Sponsored by the Velux Foundations [Collaboration between the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and Copenhagen University (KU)]

Program

Day 1

8:45 Welcome Coffee

9.00-9.30 Introduction by Kathrin Maurer (SDU) and Kristin Veel (KU)

9.30-11.00 **Paper session 1: Labour**
Chair: Johan Lau Munkholm

Managerial Life

Anna Munster

Politics, Assistance, and Aesthetic Aspects in Kempelen's Speaking Machine

Zoltán Kulcsár-Szabó

The Labour of Bots: Digital Humans and Other Non-Player Characters

Alexandra Anikina

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 **Paper session 2: Interaction**
Chair: Naja Grundtmann

Among Speaking Beings, or "Life" with My Replika

Gabriela Méndez Cota

The Problem with Robot Rights: a critical approach to relational ascriptions of liveliness

Jenny Moran

A Cybernetic Model for Bio-Semiotic Communication

Jon McCormack

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 **Paper session 3: Bio-machines (movement)**

Chair: Patrick Sloan

Machines as Companion Species: Anicka Yi's Aerobes

Eana Kim

The Sensibility of Inorganic Life: Reflections on Video Works in Contemporary Japan

Yosaku Matsutani

Biological Automatism: Mediation of Non-human Animacy in the Cinema of Jean Painlevé

Paulina Dudzińska

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.45 **Dead Time as Liveness; when performance starts to "crack"**

Keynote Lecture by Cally Spooner (Introduced by Kristin Veel)

Day 2

9.30-10.30 **Data Animism: The Biomachines of AI**

Keynote Lecture by Joanna Zylińska (Introduced by Kathrin Maurer)

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 **Paper session 4: Analogies**

Chair: Svea Braeunert

Simulated Existence before Artificial Life: Analogies between Humans and Machines in 1960s Abstract Art

Lindsay Caplan

The Cultural and Epistemological Significance of Artificial Life and Neuromorphic Computing

Primož Krašovec

Interfaces of Liveliness and Intervention in Robotic Surgery

Kathrin Friedrich

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 **Paper session 5: Bodies**

Chair: Knut Ove Eliassen

Sculpture for Men: Minimal Art Between Surrogate and Cenotaph

Robert Slifkin

Tracing Soft Robotics in (Media) Art History: Genealogy of Bio-Inspired Aesthetics and Soft Artificial Corporealities

Andreas Tešanović

“The Organism as a Movement Machine”: Embodiment and Relationality in Paul Klee’s Machinic Drawings, 1920-1922

Francesca Ferrari

15.00-15.30 Final remarks and goodbye coffee