Planetary Skins

The Future of Demonstration. Season 3
An art series by Sylvia Eckermann and Gerald Nestler.

PLANETARY SKINS

The Future of Demonstration. Season 3 addresses the materiality of the real and the digital and explores potentials, ambivalences and conflicts induced by hybrid forms of presence.

PLANETARY SKINS responds to interconnected phenomena evoked by layers of scientific and technological advancements as well as critical social and ecological conditions across the globe. Delving into different layers of *matter* – in the physical as well as the philosophical sense – it considers the fragility of our ecological, technopolitical and financial frameworks, and the role of digital connectivity in asserting, affirming or alleviating these fissures.

Artistically, PLANETARY SKINS experiments with extended forms of collaboration and resistance. As a postdisciplinary prototype for probing into the *matter* of emerging ideas, materials, risks and synergies, the project unfolds an arena that brings together performance, conversation, installation, soundscape, and film set. In an era increasingly fragmented and amalgamated by global digital platforms, PLANETARY SKINS exists as a laboratory to imagine new forms of ecologically, socially, and artistically engaged collective practice.

We think of PLANETARY SKINS as a common and multi-layered *osmotic skin*. It interweaves virtual and physical space to expand and multiply our abilities to come, think and act together. The virtual is therefore not applied as the representation of an artificial 3D-world but acts as a membrane to connect actual places and people across continents.

For us, offering an artistic format that facilitates creative participation and debate by collecting and sharing conditions, perspectives, and potentials is more productive than creating a metaverse as a platform of pure virtual representation because this.

At once art project and tool, PLANETARY SKINS is developed and realised in collaboration with practitioners from art, architecture, philosophy, technology and science, amongst other fields. Our aim is to offer access to performative-discursive art that involves the audience.

CONTEXT

The Covid-19 crisis has exposed the fragility of the political, economic and ecological frameworks onto which our societies are built. At the same time, the pandemic has shown how closely connected we are with one another, both within and beyond the human species. PLANETARY SKINS addresses this issue by demonstrating the entangled interweaving of ecological and political, biological and technological, cultural and artistic 'skins' – life on earth is not only nested in but co-depends on and thrives through myriad forms that exist within a vast array of interconnected macro- and mcrocosmic matter.

The technosphere strikes and gets under the skin differently in different places. The aim of PLANETARY SKINS is therefore to raise awareness and response-ability for more than human togetherness. We want to move the critical discourse from reflecting on the rise of global extractive dataism and its hybridization of presence towards a diffractive exploration of the ambivalences, conflicts and potentials that arise from (co-)presence.

How we imagine our world(s), and the planet on which they exist, depends as much on our individual desires and needs as on larger conditions and perspectives. Without the response-ability to embrace difference, and dissonance, however, we might not be able to stimulate the contingent commonalities that allow us to engage in much needed planetary forms of solidarity and alliance.

The street as the public space for political action remains indispensable. But we feel that it is equally indispensable to create new osmotic online spaces and tools for participation if we do not want to cede the design of our communicative media and creative means to proprietary or authoritarian interests. Planetary forms of sociality – as for instance manifesting in the climate and the LGBTQ+ movements – require artistic formats to discuss, experiment, demonstrate, and experience together.

Multi-user systems provide a yet underutilized potential when it comes to bringing people together in open contexts and enabling participation for art, activism, and discourse. For our performative-discursive art project we curate existing technologies (open source as much as possible) and integrate them into a meaningful framework. The multi-user environment is based on the UNITY 3D real-time engine and integrates AR, AI, Lidar Scans, Point Cloud, 3D-objects, Kinect motion sensing, Video Mapping, streaming, amongst others.

INFO

PLANETARY SKINS	HEART OF NOISE Festival 2023
PERFORMANCE	May 27 2023 19:00
EXHIBITION	May 28 - June 3 2023 12:00 - 18:00
VENUE	Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman,
	Maria-Theresien-Straße 34
	6020 Innsbruck, Austria
WEB SITE	thefutureofdemonstration.net/planetaryskins
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HISTORY:
For an example of a performative-discursive gay gathering (without the virtual layer), see our project: http://thefutureofdemonstration.net/passion/e03/index.html

PLANETARY SKINS is the 3rd Season of the art series **The Future of Demonstration**:
http://www.thefutureofdemonstration.net/

The Future of Demonstration

is an art series that explores the aesthetic, technological, pedagogical, and political potentials offered by the term *demonstration*. Based on its innovative format, artists, activists, architects, philosophers, scientists, and contributors from other fields jointly explore forms and structures, intensities and consequences of collective practice. With this *postdisciplinary* approach we aim to reimagine, weave, share and demonstrate narratives, techniques, and affiliations of resistance.

FoD METHOD

The Future of Demonstration art series is based on postdisciplinary practice in which artists, activists, architects, philosophers, scientists and contributors from other fields work together within a performative-discursive context.

We do not treat art, activism, theory, science and technology as separate fields but as vital contributions. The experience of their entanglement leads our speculative approach towards *demonstration* as a method to reimagine, weave and share narratives, techniques and affiliations of resistance.

By intertwining social, technological, and biological materials, epistemes, phenomena and cultures, we aim to offer an immersive artistic experience in which the audience takes part in experiments on technopolitical resolution: How can we achieve the vital shift towards an inclusive socio-ecological paradigm?

We developed the method of the art series to address what to us is at stake today: the urgent and also beautiful task for collective imagination to engage with redefining terms and conditions, revaluing technological, organic and inorganic resources and transforming processes and participation.

FoD FORMAT

Borrowing from the format of television series, we speak of seasons and episodes. Based on thematic clusters derived from leitmotifs – **VERMÖGEN** in 2017, **PASSION** in 2018, PLANETARY SKINS in 2023/24 – the episodes are jointly developed and realized with our participants and partners.

The Future of Demonstration resolves the conventional and increasingly unproductive separation between art (exhibition), discourse (symposium) and archive (documentation). Instead, the episodes interweave digital and physical space, performance, talks, conversation, installation, soundscape, and film within specific choreographies.

Each episode is streamed live on our website and other channels. Together, they constitute the archive of **The Future of Demonstration** as a web series.

The first two seasons of **The Future of Demonstration** – conceived by Eckermann and Nestler in collaboration with Maximilian Thoman – were realised as the media art festival of the City of Vienna in 2017 and 2018. The art series' eight episodes engaged with today's massive transformations in ecological, technopolitical, economic and cultural spheres.

http://thefutureofdemonstration.net