

The NYUAD Art Gallery announces first ever virtual exhibition *not in, of, along, or relating to a line*

Virtual show explores artistic expression through technology in a COVID-19 world

Abu Dhabi, December 9, 2020: The NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) Art Gallery will soon launch its first-ever virtual exhibition, titled *not in, of, along, or relating to a line*. Guest-curated with NYUAD faculty and artist **Heather Dewey-Hagborg**, it includes new commissions and existing works from **Cao Fei, Sophia Al-Maria, Zach Blas, Addie Wagenknecht, Eva and Franco Mattes, Lee Blalock, Maryam Al Hamra, micha cárdenas**, and the collective of **Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh, and Hesam Rahmanian**. The exhibition invites a new perspective on virtual and screen-based contemporary art, of particular relevance during COVID-19.

Opening on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, this exhibition of “born digital” work includes a selection of new commissions and existing pieces by nine artists, all of whom employ technology for self-expression, making visible both the restrictions and the freedoms that a digital landscape offers. These nine artists explore how identities and histories are created, transformed, or invented. For some, technology is a means to an end: a memoir, a fictional history, an intimate view of a person’s life. Others interrogate the power relations of these same tools, from virtual gaming and ‘big data’ consumer portraits to facial recognition software. The artists appropriate technologies to narrate, alter, augment, or invent their identities and histories.

Curated for ease of viewing on a mobile device, visitors will be able to use their touchscreen to move from artwork to artwork, along a series of forking paths. The exhibition has been designed to enable each journey to be entirely unique, with no two visitors having the exact same experience. In doing so, the notion of experiential relativity threads the exhibition both in its form and in its content.

Commenting on the concept, Executive Director of The NYUAD Art Gallery, University’s Chief Curator, and co-curator of this exhibition Maya Allison said: “The line is a direct path, the most efficient route between two points. It evokes a sense of movement forward, of progress. A line can also be a boundary: in 2020 we crossed the threshold of the global pandemic, and yet, it was not one, but multiple thresholds, depending on the individual’s context, which might yield widely disparate experiences.”

Allison added: “This virtual exhibition, curated specifically for mobile viewing, represents the first of its kind for The NYUAD Art Gallery and concludes a season of online events. Whilst it arrives at a time when many people report suffering from Zoom fatigue and the lingering effects of pandemic isolation, the smartphone persists as a site of diversion, escape, and the meaningful pleasure of discovery.”

NYUAD Visiting Assistant Professor, transdisciplinary artist, and exhibition co-curator Heather Dewey-Hagborg added: “Already, pre-pandemic, the smartphone was an extension of our bodies. We are all already cyborgs, existing simultaneously on multiple planes through these technologies that extend our bodies into the virtual world. Wittingly or not, humans have embarked on a journey of self-modification through technology.”

Each artist in this exhibition takes as their subject this matter of agency, self-determination, and technology’s promise of liberation or threat of suffocation.”

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not in, of, along, or relating to a line, explores a new way of experiencing digitally-born artwork in a unique virtual setting, and using an innovative curatorial approach. The exhibition stands in contrast to the early pandemic move to generate 3D rendered gallery spaces as a digital expression of the pre-pandemic physicality of galleries. The NYUAD Art Gallery's latest work serves as a meditation on the fact that, increasingly, we hold our mobile phone screens, and by extension, the virtual world, in the palm of our hands.

For more information, please visit nyuad-artgallery.org/

Listings

Link to page: https://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/our-exhibitions/main-gallery/not-a-line/

Exhibition: *not in, of, along, or relating to a line*

Launch date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

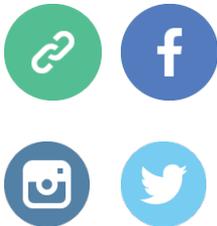
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For more information about the NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About The NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery

www.nyuad-artgallery.org

Established in 2014, The NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) Art Gallery is the Gulf's first and only university gallery with a program of scholarly and experimental museum exhibitions. The program seeks to map new territories and ideas through presenting exhibitions by internationally established artists, curators, and scholars at its main space. Its auxiliary venue, the Project Space, is an exhibition laboratory for the university community, and for emerging artists and curators. Situated within NYU Abu Dhabi, the community of which hails from over 115 countries, The Art Gallery organizes free public programs and guided tours in conjunction with its groundbreaking exhibitions. It also produces scholarly publications, which are a core part of its curatorial frame and reflect its academic mission. Collectively, with the Gallery's Reading

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Room, these welcoming, intimate spaces open up artistic opportunities and initiate regional and international dialogue.

About NYU Abu Dhabi

www.nyuad.nyu.edu

NYU Abu Dhabi is the first comprehensive liberal arts and science campus in the Middle East to be operated abroad by a major American research university. NYU Abu Dhabi has integrated a highly-selective liberal arts, engineering and science curriculum with a world center for advanced research and scholarship enabling its students to succeed in an increasingly interdependent world and advance cooperation and progress on humanity's shared challenges. NYU Abu Dhabi's high-achieving students have come from 115 nations and speak over 115 languages. Together, NYU's campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai form the backbone of a unique global university, giving faculty and students opportunities to experience varied learning environments and immersion in other cultures at one or more of the numerous study-abroad sites NYU maintains on six continents.