

Angewandte goes Taipei: Becoming human in times of post-humanism

Open format / installation

June 21 – July 7, 2024

Symposium

June 21–22, 2024

at Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts in cooperation
with Taipei National University of the Arts

Concept & curating

Petra Schaper Rinkel, Zeynep Aksöz Balzar

Enabling, accompanying and securing

(Organizing committee)

Alexander Damianisch, Marianna Mondelos

As the criticism of human-centered humanism became a common topic this symposium seeks new – artistic, critical, experimental – perspectives on post-humanistic discourses. This posthuman turn is based on the convergence of post-humanism, technology-defying transhumanism and the critical view of the Anthropocene as a geological age determined by humans through the destruction of the foundations of life for all.

The critical posthumanist subject is realising its limited capacity for agency, as the posthumanist knowledge discourses have articulated a global critique of the universalist image of hu/man and human exceptionalism. These critical discourses have become powerful when animal rights and the rights of lakes and rivers have been given constitutional status in democracies. But what goes beyond the universalist idea of "hu/man" as the supposed measure of all things?

In an era when the boundaries between technology, ecology, humans and non-humans are blurring, when intelligence is defined from a human and non-human perspective and control by algorithms is becoming invisible and incalculable for humans, the question arises in new ways: what does it mean to become and remain human when the interdependent adaptations between humans and the environment they have built and designed happen interactively?

Through this discursive format, we want to explore the notion of becoming human – which is always a political question – from an interdisciplinary, art-based perspective in which "individuality" is seen as an interactive process of becoming.

As adaptation becomes an ambiguous process of humans, environments, nature and technology in the context of algorithmic control processes, the understanding involves a nuanced understanding of how human beings and non-human entities continuously – and conflictual – adapt behaviors, roles and identities. The question is adaptation continuously reproduce power relations and what possibilities there are to make the power and violence relations inscribed in technologies and artificial environments visible, tangible, controllable and changeable.

At an art university that understands socio-critical discourses as a starting point for artistic practices, this question is doubly puzzling, as it is the individual, the particular individual human being, who radically and subjectively questions themselves and the world. These radical investigations are at the focus of the symposium.

Opportunity Under the theme "Becoming human in times of post-humanism", positions will be gathered at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts. The event will take place in cooperation with the Taipei National University of the Arts from June 21 – July 7, 2024. We invite you to take the opportunity to participate in this international project of Angewandte in Taipei.

Submission If you are interested in participating, please submit the following in development of what "Becoming human in times of post-humanism" is, by April 30, 2024 for upload:

<https://base.uni-ak.ac.at/cloud/index.php/s/xT8iqzx5ryZpPeX>

1. an image or film (here it is also necessary to authorise a photo from it for singular use and upload it as an image)
2. a statement reflecting on the topic, max. 1.500 characters (incl. spaces), in English,
3. the title of the work, as well as all legally required information apropos the shared work
4. In addition, a short bio (max. 1.000 characters incl. spaces with an email address, for possible contact by interested colleagues; please also indicate the department affiliation here.

Form – Name of the files:

1. LastName FirstName_1_WorkTitle.mp4/.jpg/.png
2. LastName FirstName_2_Statement.pdf
3. LastName FirstName_3_WorkInfo.pdf
4. LastName FirstName_4_Short Bio.pdf

Identification Provided that the subject matter is suitable, we plan to show all works in Taiwan via screen. In special cases, consultations with the head of department may be necessary. It is therefore important to consider the consent of the department head for participation when submitting. This is assumed to have been obtained by the project organization upon submission.

Contact zff@uni-ak.ac.at