

Public Property

By Jan Huggenberg and
Andres Villa Torres

Multimedia Installation displayed 18–26 Oct

Vernissage Tues 17 Oct | from 6pm

with Artists present and performance by
Live Coding Collaborative Swan Panda

“Public Property” is a Multimedia Installation addressing the topic of control and transparency of digital data. The centerpiece is an automated puppet in the window front – responding to data collected about the visitors. We invited Jan Huggenberg & Andres Villa Torres to Playground. They imagined an installation which aims to transform Playground into a mediated space.

Here is what they say

Technology has opened new possibilities over the past years and is becoming increasingly harder to avoid without feeling left out. Even though we use digital services on a daily basis, the underlying mechanisms are not fully comprehensible. Transparency is important to build a healthy awareness of the impact of personal data being transferred and shared. We are running the risk of being puppets of an economy that promises to make life simpler and more entertaining.

The installation project aims to raise awareness about the fact that interactions with digital media are often held intransparent in order to trick the participants into a certain behaviour or reveal data. A basic understanding of the digital information flow and the intentions of the companies behind it is crucial for a healthy digital future.

An automated puppet is acting as a symbol of the unaware user in our technologized world. The individual parts are moved by motors that respond to public data collected about the participant. A collage of the results is projected onto the tiles and reflected back into the room. Making fragments of the content visible to the audience.



Playground is a curated space and design studio opened by Antonia Huber and Julia von Meiss in November 2016. Fostering collaborations between people and disciplines, we provide a physical space and a framework for everyone who wants to educate, entertain, show, exhibit, launch and celebrate.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Connected Strangers, interactive installation at Mudax and Musée de la Main

Jan Huggenberg | huggenberg.ch

Jan is an Interaction Designer from Zurich currently based in Barcelona, Spain. With a background in IT and his degrees in Interaction Design he always strived to use computers in a creative manner and experiment with state of the art technology. His interests range from human machine interactions and user interface design to media arts installations and flying helicopters. Currently he's working as a freelance designer and research assistant at the Zurich University of the Arts.



sense — regression — transition, affaire at Pasquart Centre

Andrés Villa Torres | andresvillatorres.work

Andrés works as future-media artist and designer for digital products, services and media. His main focus is on the future oriented and posthuman ontologies, as well as sustainability, aesthetics, democratisation and ecology of data. He has both academic and practice-based background in the fields of product design, interaction design and contemporary arts. He works with algorithms, sound, the web, living organisms, computer graphics, computer vision, machine learning, physical computing and diverse materials. Currently he is working on his doctoral proposal at the University of Bern.

Swan Panda

Swan Panda is a collaborative electrical storm of live coded madness. An exploratory project by Julian Staddon and Jorge Ramirez, this morphing hybrid transmutes at each port it travels through, converging local and remote weather data telematically, to explore how we interface with our atmosphere and what effect this has on how we respond to the Anthropocene.

Julian Staddon | julianstaddon.net

is an Australian mixed reality artist, curator and researcher, founder and director of the MARart organisation, PhD candidate at the Curtin University of Technology, and lecturer in several Art Universities including the University of the Arts London.

Jorge Ramírez | r4m4z4.com

is a Mexican media artist, curator and performer. A livecode pioneer in Mexico, for 15 years has performed and exhibited internationally traversing diverse media such as architecture, sound art and mixed reality. Founder member of Mico Rex and director of anemonal.digital, currently is curating and producing media art activities for Ciudad Creativa Digital in Guadalajara, MX.
