

LACMA Art + Technology Lab Announces 2020 Grant Recipients

YouTube Learning Joins Art + Technology Lab Advisory Board

(Los Angeles—August 13, 2020) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2020 Art + Technology grants. The grant awards include monetary and in-kind support for projects that engage emerging technologies. LACMA issued the 2020 Request for Proposals in December 2019, and the museum received over 600 submissions. The grant recipients selected for 2020 will work with 3D printing and reconstituted materials, robotics and crowdsourcing, Indigenous navigation techniques, and natural building practices and additive manufacturing.

The Art + Technology Lab and its artist projects receive the support of an advisory board composed of the leading innovators across a variety of technological industries. Advisory board members lend their experience and expertise and help drive the conversation around how museums will use new technology in the future. Announced today is the addition of new technology partner, **YouTube Learning**. YouTube Learning joins current advisory committee members **Accenture**, **Hyundai**, **Snap Inc.**, and **SpaceX**. Artists **Micol Hebron** and **Dan Goods** and technologist **Chris DeFay** are participating independent advisors. This year, the Art + Technology Lab welcomes **Tobias Rees**, founding Director of the Berggruen Institute's Transformations of the Human Program, as a visiting advisor. The Lab is part of The Hyundai Project: Art + Technology at LACMA, a joint initiative exploring the convergence of art and technology. Hyundai Motor has been supporting LACMA since 2015 on a variety of projects, including acquisitions, exhibitions, scholarship initiatives, and programming.

"The historic Art + Technology program at LACMA in 1967–71 supported artists experimenting with new technologies, including Robert Irwin, Claes Oldenberg, James Turrell, and Andy Warhol," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "Re-established in 2013, the Lab continues to bring artists and technologists together, and has since fostered projects of 35 artists from around the world."

2020 Art + Technology Lab recipients:

Matthew Angelo Harrison will collaborate with materials scientists on a material that can be reconstituted for 3D printing of environments that can go through cycles of creation and decay to explore the notion of “abstract ancestry.” The artist will utilize 3D printing technology to recreate structural environments relevant to the African diaspora and labor history. Harrison’s project is called *The Consequence of Platforms*.

Agnieszka Kurant will develop a group of shape-shifting sculptural organisms, algorithmically controlled by a collective intelligence of users from around the world. The participants’ data and live inputs will be harvested by artificial intelligence neural networks to create an ecosystem of evolving, polyphonic forms, alternately natural and artificial, living and not, biological, geological and algorithmic. Kurant’s project is called *Artificial Society / Collective Tamagotchi*.

Kyle McDonald, Daisy Mahaina from Vaka Valo Association, and **Dr. Marianne George** will document ancient Polynesian navigation techniques with new technology, including “Te Lapa”: a faint burst of light that emanates from land, but has never been recorded. The project aims to build a custom camera rig that can sense this very faint light, and capture the first-ever video of Te Lapa. Documentation resulting from the project will serve as a pedagogical tool. McDonald, Mahaina, and George’s project is called *Te Lapa: Polynesian Navigation Illuminated*.

Virginia San Fratello and **Ronald Rael** will reexamine Indigenous mud-based building materials through 21st-century robotics, to contemplate the past and future of Pueblo de Los Ángeles, historical home to the Chumash and Tongva, Spain, Mexico, and now the United States. San Fratello and Rael will create proto-architectures that connect building traditions at opposing ends of a technological spectrum. San Fratello and Rael’s project is called *MUD Frontiers / Zoquetes Fronterizos*.

The Art + Technology Lab’s 2020 artist projects were evaluated on various criteria, including artistic merit; relevance to current issues in technology and culture; potential to generate models, methods, and data for future public use; and the opportunity for meaningful public engagement.

For more information, extended biographies, and descriptions of each artist project, visit lacma.org/lab.

About the Art + Technology Lab

Inspired by the spirit of LACMA's original Art and Technology program (1967–71), which paired artists with technology companies in Southern California, the Art +

Technology Lab at LACMA supports artist experiments with emerging technology. Through sponsors, the Lab provides grants, in-kind support, and facilities at the museum to develop new artist projects. To date, more than 35 artists from around the world, including Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Korea, Mexico, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have received awards through the Art + Technology Lab.

The public is invited to engage with the Art + Technology Lab artists and learn more about their projects and ideas. To receive information on upcoming Art + Technology Lab projects, contact lab@lacma.org.

Credit

The Art + Technology Lab is presented by



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The Lab is part of The Hyundai Project: Art + Technology at LACMA, a joint initiative exploring the convergence of art and technology.

Seed funding for the development of the Art + Technology Lab was provided by the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission through the Productivity Investment Fund and LACMA Trustee David Bohnett.

About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 142,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

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