

PRESS RELEASE

April 2022

BETWEEN REALMS

26 May - 30 June 2022

Press View: 3-5 pm Opening Reception: 5-9 pm Thursday 26 May 2022

Lazy Gallery, Corneliusstraße 46, Munich

Organised by FARBE.io

Artists: aaajiao, Alice Bucknell, Kevin Abosch, Ruben Benjamin, Beeple, Fewocious, Damien Hirst, Alexander James, Zongbo Jiang, Seulgi Lee Kang, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Andreas Stylianou, Wolf Vostell, XCOPY.

NFT projects: Bored Ape Yacht Club, EtherRock, World of Women, Clone X.

Curator: Jessica Wan



What is the impact of technology on the hybridization of spaces? Can we understand expanding media environments through an ecological lens?

Between Realms explores the exciting and radical ways visionary artists have embraced new technologies and redefined art conventions. This multimedia exhibition focuses on the sensibilities and modes of creativity associated with the developing field of artificial intelligence and its relationship to contemporary art.

Many of our thinking about technology assume it to be cold, functional, and immaterial, whereas human relations through interfaces is not real interaction. The differentiation between online and offline, however, is perhaps perceived as non-existent if considered through the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, as both experiences construct a sense of truth and shape our perception of identities.

Here, over 35 works of sculpture, painting, print, moving image, generative art, NFT, artist-designed software and simulation find home in the interplay between virtuality and reality. Each artwork contains its world and mythology, inviting the viewer to imagine a future that does not pivot towards human settlement as the default.

In the 1985 essay “*A Cyborg Manifesto*”, Feminist scholar Donna Haraway first introduced the concept of the ‘Cyborg’ as a rejection of fixed identity and hierarchical domination. This idea of human subjectivity being shaped by the relationship between technology and body is now taking forms in the semantic web enabling machine-to-machine interaction. For viewers interested in digital art, the field denotes liberating systems modelled on associative, non-linear thinking and experience. Relatively, crypto art is indebted to conceptual art by emphasizing ideas and circulation, simultaneously bypassing the autonomy of art ascribed to traditional objects such as paintings and sculptures.

Crypto art is part of a continuum within art history rooted in experimentation with dataset and distribution systems. Since the 1960s, digital art has been concerned with the cultural, political and aesthetic possibilities of new media. There are parallels between net art and ideas in the work of earlier artists and movements. For example, the first artist to integrate television sets into art, Wolf Vostell (1932–1998) 's *Electronic Dé-collage Happening Room* (1968), transformed broadcast devices into interactive canvases responsive to the movements of spectators. Vostell's apparatus for event-based participation, in one way or another, prefigured the blockchain movement, which promotes peer-to-peer exchange, cryptography and collaboration.

With the value of NFTs folded into the volatile fortunes of the crypto economy, the boundaries of art and currency are fundamentally challenged. Last summer, Damien Hirst launched his first NFT initiative, *The Currency* with 10,000 unique hand-painted dot-covered works on paper corresponding to a nonfungible token. It is the first time both versions are being shown together while collectors can decide whether to keep the NFT or the physical given an exchange window until 27 July 2022. The conceptual project approaches notions of ownership by triggering dynamic responses to how we discern and value art in the age of blockchain.

Have you ever dreamed of a limitless life? Conceived in lockdown, Alice Bucknell's *E-Z Kryptobuild* (2020) is a "post-apocalyptic sustainable luxury" for high-net-worth individuals offered by a scam crypto company. The satirical narrative questions architecture's role in producing systems of global inequity and the climate emergency. Embodying a visual language of reality TV shows from *Selling Sunset* to *Love Island*, *E-Z Kryptobuild* critiques the delusional complexes of Silicon Valley and starchitecture culture through a cast of characters including global influencers Kim Kardashian, a disgruntled intern, and the resurrected ghost of Dame Zaha Hadid.

Though different in mediums, artworks on view open up a space to reflect on the human condition and its ever-changing relation to machines and non-human entities.

In the reading room, a selection of materials provides insider perspectives of artists, cultural theorists, policymakers, and critics on the subject of digital spaces, while a timeline helps to guide visitors to keywords, events, and technological developments that have taken art into the age of blockchain.

The exhibition coincides with MUC.xyz, a two-day in-person event programmed for May 2022 in Haus der Kunst, Munich.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Panel Discussions

6:30 - 7:30 pm CEST Saturday, 28 May

Towards Phygital Futures: How are we experiencing digital art?

Speakers: Dr. Annette Doms / Dr. Teo Pham / Theo Stylianou

Moderator: Jessica Wan

[Register Now](#)

Wednesday, 22 June

Details to be announced.

Masterclass

7 - 8 pm CEST Monday, 30 May

Introduction to NFTs and Digital Art

[Register Now](#)

PUBLICATION

A catalogue in German and English accompanies the exhibition.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

aaajiao aka Xu Wenkai (b.1984, @aaajiao) is the virtual persona of Shanghai and Berlin-based media artist and activist Xu Wenkai. Enriched by contemporary theory about the online sphere, his practice explores the evolution of identity assimilated by the digital world. Drawing on a broad range of visual languages, including sculpture, multimedia installation, video, sound and design, aaajiao's works narrate the experience of a generation that inhabits the parallel worlds and saturated realities of the Internet. His work has been featured in public institutions such as the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Hong Kong and chi K11 art museum, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, Manchester, and ZKM Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe.

Kevin Abosch (b. 1969, @kevinabosch) is an Irish conceptual artist known for photography, sculpture, installation, AI, film, and work on blockchain. Abosch's work addresses the nature of identity and value by posing ontological questions and responding to sociological dilemmas. Abosch's work has been exhibited throughout many public spaces, including The Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, The National Museum of China, The National Gallery of Ireland, Jeu de Paume (Paris), The Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Bogotá Museum of Modern Art and ZKM Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe.

Ruben Benjamin (b.1994, @rubenbenjaminwork) is a German artist from Munich. Originally coming from the numbers-driven business world, he now works on his highly three-dimensional paintings. He has a Master's degree in Management & Technology but is now focusing full-time on his creative work. After several successful group exhibitions, Ruben's first solo exhibition will take place in July 2022 in the heart of Munich.

Alice Bucknell (b.1993, @alicebucknell) is a North American artist and writer based in London. She works primarily through game engines and explores interconnections of architecture, ecology, magic, and nonhuman and machine intelligence. She is the organizer of New Mystics, a platform exploring magic, mysticism, ritual, and technology.

Beeple aka Michael Joseph Winkelmann (b.1981, @beeples_crap) is an American digital artist, graphic designer, and animator. He is known for using various mediums to create comical, phantasmagoric works that make political and social commentaries while using pop culture figures as references.

FEWOCIOUS aka Victor Langlois (b. 2003 @fewocious), first started creating art at 13 in his hometown of Las Vegas. His foray into digital art was born as a refuge and an escape for the young transgender artist.

Damien Steven Hirst (b.1965, @damienhirst) is one of the Young British Artists who dominated the art scene in the UK during the 1990s and became known for his openness to materials and entrepreneurial attitude. The artist's first NFT project, "The Currency" explores the boundaries of art and currency by releasing a collection of 10,000 NFTs that correspond to 10,000 unique physical artworks stored in a vault for collectors to exchange within a limited timeframe.

Alexander James (b. 1993, @alexanderjames) works predominantly across mediums, including painting, installation and collage. He graduated from Camberwell College of Arts, London in 2015 with a BA in Illustration. Through processes of abstraction and fragmentation, James looks to create multifaceted and vibrant works interweaving elements of generational memories and introspections into newly constructed realities.

Zongbo Jiang (b.1993, @zongbo.jiang) is a visual artist based in London. With a background in Graphic and Digital Fashion design, his design philosophy has always been true to sculpting a narrative. He observes the collisions between aspects of daily life, focusing on social and environmental issues. His work centres around creating digital characters, which often take strange and comedic forms. These characters are placed in virtually crafted spaces to solidify the narrative he creates to share the concepts he is portraying.

Seulgi Lee Kang (b. 1985, @seulgikangx) is a performance, video and installation artist born in South Korea, working in London. Kang's work deals with breaking down the simplicity and complexity of the 'every day' which, as so fundamental and common or uncommon, can be overlooked. Through the variation of 'every day', she questions our environment, the rudimentary balance of structure and subconscious rules that, for her, seem to have already been granted by default. Expressing circumstances surrounding a moment, she uses 'mundane' objects and materials to create nuanced performance films informed by poetry, history and human emotions.

Edward Barber and **Jay Osgerby** (@barberosgerby) founded their East London studio in 1996, after studying architecture together at the Royal College of Art. Barber and Osgerby's exploratory approach emphasized on experimentation and innovation to materiality and colour. From these areas of focus emerge solutions that reflect the close relationship of their work with industrial processes and new technologies, illustrated most clearly in large-scale installations such as *Double Space* (2014): a series of revolving mirrors suspended from the ceiling of the Raphael Gallery in the V&A; and *Forecast* (2016): a wind-powered work installed at Somerset House as part of the first London Design Biennale.

PAK is an anonymous creator who has been at the forefront of digital art and crypto media for over two decades, leveraging evolving technology to create boundary-pushing artwork. Pak is also the founder and lead designer of the studio Undream and creator of Archillect, an AI-built to discover and share stimulating visual media. In February, Pak's collaborated with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to launch a collection of NFTs titled "Censored" to support fees of Assange's legal battles, as well as freedom of information causes. In the burgeoning NFT space, Pak has established themselves as a leader of striking artwork, novel token mechanisms, and evolving media.

Andreas Stylianou (b.1990) is a Cypriot artist who lives and works between London and Nicosia. He studied at the Architectural Association and received a Master's degree from the Royal College of Art and IE Business School. Stylianou has externalised a visually unseen dormant world that lies within himself, blooming through a successive evolution of works engaged

with diverse mediums. Using vibrant colours in addition to popular characters, biographical narratives are expressed in architectural techniques of painting and making. There is a conscious layering of intuitive mark-making and precise meditative processes by bridging the digital and the physical.

Wolf Vostell (1932–1998) was a pioneering German artist engaged with a variety of media, known as one of the early adopters of installation art and co-founder of the mid-twentieth century Fluxus movement. His practice of embedding objects in concrete and using television sets became characteristic techniques by the name of blurring and Dé-coll/age. Alongside Korean American Nam June Paik (1932–2006), Vostell breaks down outworn values and creates artwork revealing ideas for a radically transformed digital future.

XCOPY (@xcopyart) is a London-based crypto artist who transforms social commentary into vivid visual satire. Recognized as one of the pioneering artists who has experimented with crypto art since 2010, XCOPY's cartoonish, symbolic and illustrative style, combined with historical provenance, makes its NFTs extremely sought after in the digital community.

ABOUT NFT PROJECTS

Bored Ape Yacht Club is a collection of 10,000 unique NFTs created by Yuga Labs in April 2021, each with disinterested expressions, colors, and clothes. The NFTs function as Yacht Club membership cards, granting access to an online community with collaborative graffiti boards and new hangout areas activated through a roadmap.

EtherRock is one of the first crypto collectible NFT-type projects on the Ethereum blockchain from 2017 that depicts 100 clip art JPEGs of various-co-loured rocks. The current floor price is 140 ETH equivalent to 275,903.60 USD based on the exchange rate of 24 May, 2022.

World of Women is an NFT community created by Yam Karkai (@ykarkai), aiming to celebrate representation, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for all. The collection features 10,000 digital illustrations of diverse and empow-ering women figures and 5,400 active members.

Clone X is the first-ever NFT project featuring 20,000 customizable avatars equipped for the metaverse launched by the digitized sneaker developer RTFKT and Japanese artist Takashi Murakami in November 2021.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Jessica Wan (@jesswan__) is a London-based curator and writer who seeks to take an in-clusive ad interdisciplinary approach to form modes of knowledge produc-tion and dissemination that encounters culture and the political as an open question. She has worked closely with artists and thinkers to develop works in non-profit and commercial spaces, including museums, founda-tions, gal-leries, art fairs (Art Basel), biennales (Venice Biennale), and cultural events. She is currently a visiting practitioner at the Chelsea College of Arts and a contributor to various publications.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

FARBE collaborates with artists, galleries, and brands to develop culturally relevant projects and exhibitions at the intersection of art and technology. Our purpose is to enable our friends and partners to explore art through a thoughtfully curated programme and jointly reach new creative frontiers. We seek to educate audiences, inspire artists, and enable institutions to venture into digital and NFT spaces. *Between Realms* is the first exhibition organised by FARBE, marking the end of the beginning for the platform towards a future of creative collaborations and exhibitions bridging the gap between different spaces.

[Website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)

LAZY Gallery approaches projects and exhibitions with innovative ideas to break free from preconceptions and provide fresh content. FARBE thanks the LAZY Gallery and its director Simon Lohmeyer for supporting the collaboration.

[Website](#), [Instagram](#)

DISPLAY PARTNER

Canvia art frame uses proprietary image processing and built-in sensors that make real-time dynamic adjustments to its display based on visual conditions to enhance viewing experience.

[Website](#), [Instagram](#)

INFORMATION**For exhibitions and interviews please contact:**

Curator Jessica Wan at jessica.wan.kapo@gmail.com

For media enquiries, images and sales please contact:

Founder & CEO of FARBE.io Selina Scherrer, at selina@farbe.io

Opening Hours: Admission Free

12 – 6 pm from Tuesday to Friday

1 – 5 pm on Saturday

Sunday and Monday by appointment

Address:

Lazy Gallery,
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Transport:

Fraunhofer Straße (U-Bahn)
Isartor (S-Bahn)

Hashtags:

#BetweenRealms #Farbeio #Farbe #DigitalArt #NewMedia #NFTArt #NFT