

For press release

Hyperobject: Rendering the Non-Human

Artists: Samuel Adam Swope, Fito Segrera

On View: 2016.12.17-2016.12.30 (Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays)

Opening Reception: 2016.12.17 (Sat.) 16:00

Organizer: Chronus Art Center

Address: BLDG.18, No. 50 Moganshan Road, Shanghai

Chronus Art Center is pleased to present *Hyperobject: Rendering the Non-Human*, an exhibition resulting from CAC_LAB's research and creation practice integrating artificial neural networks, cognitive computation and quadcopter technologies into the art-making process. Featuring a multiplicity of ever-changing layers of reality rendered by the machine and things through autopoiesis, *Hyperobject* opens up a new potential beyond conventional aesthetics, thus challenging human knowledge and perception of time, space and the mundane world. The exhibition will be on view from December 17th to December 30th, 2016.

Viewers entering the exhibition space will first encounter an array of hovering hyper-physical objects within Samuel Adam Swope's staged house: *Floating Room*. Conceived as a sensorial, sculptural installation, *Floating Room* shapes interfaces between our things, flight, and air, and between fantasy and digital realization, transforming the domestic space from static and quiet dust-collecting rooms into sensational buzzing, windy soundscapes. From taking off, to hovering or drifting, and then landing, these floating technological-domestic hybrids touch other home interior artifacts through air currents or impact, embodying a message that mixes humor and narration into contemporary inquiries regarding emerging flight technologies, novel approaches to product delivery, and future smart homes.



Floating Room, Samuel Adam Swope, 2016, screen shot, courtesy of the artist.

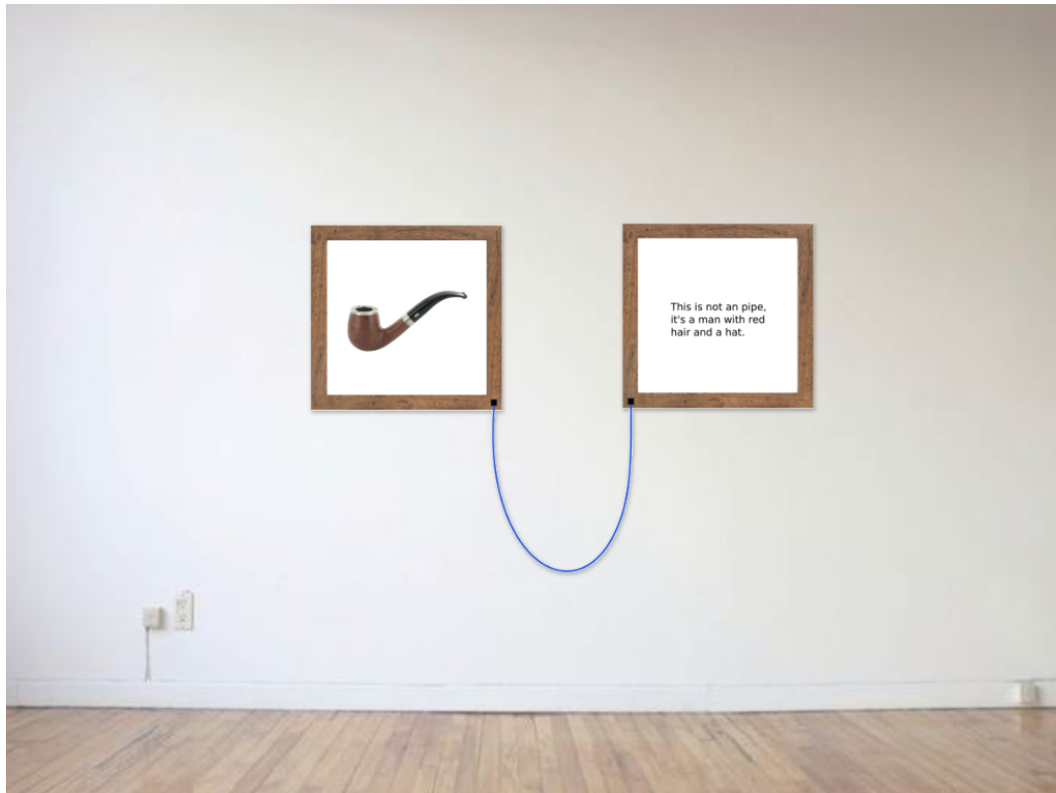
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新时线媒体艺术中心/Chronus Art Center

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While Swope's *Floating Room* shifts domestic products into featherweight, hovering airborne whimsies, *The Treachery of [soft] Images*, a newly made piece by Fito Segrera, proposes an inquiry into new forms of conceptual art by making use of cognitive computational systems and Internet technologies. In *The Treachery of [soft] Images*, two framed computer-displays are hung on the wall and networked together. The piece appropriates Rene Magritte's famous statement "This is not a pipe" in his painting *The Treachery of Images* and utilizes it as the starting point for an experiment in art and machine learning, hence revealing a new hybridized notion of reality rendered over our natural cognition by intelligent on-line systems.



The Treachery of [soft] Images, Fito Segrera, 2016, sketch, courtesy of the artist.

As an attempt at restoring the technical and other non-human existence on par with human being to its due place as an equally disruptive and transformative potentiality, *Hyperobject: Rendering the Non-Human* with its concrete and vivid examples leads up to fundamental questions on things and the evolution, which in Timothy Morton's terms, "is radically non-teleological. In evolution there is no high or low. A life form is not more or less evolved than another life form," and knowing is thus just one mode of accessing a thing and by no means the top access mode.

<About the Artists>

Samuel Adam Swope

Samuel Adam Swope, born 1984 in Missouri, USA, currently based in Hong Kong, is an artist most recognized for his Aerial Art and for inventing novel situations with artistic merit. Samuel feeds off his innate boyish curiosities, imagination, and mischievous behavior. He follows heuristic methodologies and seriously plays. He fancies apparatuses with aesthetics, craft, and technique, but that maintain a core concept related to science and whimsy.

His continued interest in contemporary uses of apparatuses, performance, technology and DIY culture has enabled him to exhibit and lecture internationally in art spaces and academic and cultural institutions, for example ISEA 2016 Hong Kong, Este: Coordenadas Itinerantes Colombia, Nightingale Chicago, and FILE 2015 Brazil.

Samuel received a BFA in sculpture from Missouri State University in 2007. In 2014 he earned his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago within the Art and Technology department as their full merit scholar. In 2015 he was a Research Associate at School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong.

Website: samueladamswope.com

Fito Segrera Fito

Segrera is an artist, technologist and Head of Research/Creation at Chronus Art Center, Shanghai. He studied fine arts and audiovisual / Multimedia production at Jorge Tadeo Lozano University of Bogotá, Colombia and completed a MFA in Design and Technology with honors at Parsons, The New School, New York, while being a Fulbright Scholar from 2013 until 2015. His current research and creative practice appropriates elements from digital philosophy, artificial intelligence, monism and modern physics while using physical computing, software programming and information/telecommunication technologies to inquiry in fundamental ontological questions regarding the nature of reality and the physicality of the universe. His main exhibitions are: Variations New Media Art Paris 2016, PLUNC Festival Lisbon 2016, West Bund Art Center Shanghai 2015, Chronus Art Center Shanghai 2015, SIGGRAPH 2014 Canada, Collision 20 & 21 at Boston Ciberarts Gallery 2014, Huston International Performance Biennale 2014, SXSW Austin TX 2014, EYEBEAM New York 2013, Agora Collective Center Berlin 2013, Dorkbot NYC 2013, Harvestworks New York 2013.

Website: <http://fii.to>



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About Chronus Art Center

Established in 2013, Chronus Art Center (CAC) is China's first nonprofit art organization dedicated to the presentation, research / creation and scholarship of media art. CAC with its exhibitions, residency-oriented fellowships, lectures and workshop programs and through its archiving and publishing initiatives, creates a multifaceted and vibrant platform for the discourse, production and dissemination of media art in a global context. CAC is positioned to advance artistic innovation and cultural awareness by critically engaging with media technologies that are transforming and reshaping contemporary experiences.

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