

SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018

11am - 8pm

#designingbelief



Alt-Age: Designing Belief is a one-day festival of talks, live performances and moving image exploring how contemporary conspiracies and belief systems are born, broadcast and believed.

From the emergence of memes and message board communities to Cambridge Analytica and Twitter trolls, we have witnessed the shaping of a precarious online environment where new conspiracies emerge and spread. In our current age of Photoshop, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, social media hacking, invisible algorithms and alternative facts, how can we believe anything we are presented with? When everyone has the power to produce, edit and subvert images and information, how do the technologies themselves shift and adapt?

This event, comprising free performances and film screenings in the Design Museum's public atrium and a ticketed symposium in the Bakala Auditorium, invites leading thinkers and practitioners across contemporary art, design and technology to question how conspiracies are building belief systems, communities and alternative bodies of authority. The festival confronts how the design of online platforms can be co-opted by different groups, and how that might be affecting the ways we communicate today.

Alt-Age is curated by students from the MA Curating Contemporary Art Programme Graduate Projects 2018, Royal College of Art.

MORNING DESIGNING DISCOURSE

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION to MORNING TALKS

11.00 Alt-Age curators
Bakala Auditorium

DR CLARE BIRCHALL

11.25 *Trumped Up:
The President and Conspiracy Theories*
Bakala Auditorium

TAYLOR LE MELLE

11.55 *National Heritage Project*
Bakala Auditorium

DANIEL KELLER

12.25 *The Nouveaux Cryptoriche:
A Consumer Profile*
Bakala Auditorium

PANEL DISCUSSION

13.00 With Daniel Keller and Michael Dieter.
Chaired by Natalie Kane
Bakala Auditorium

LUNCH

14.00 - 15.00

NETWORK STUDY XIV - FLASH

14.32 - 15.00 Performance by
the Network Ensemble*
*The Network Ensemble is the sound unit
of the Demystification Committee
Atrium

THROUGHOUT

BORA AKINCITURK in collaboration with MEHMET DURAN

Innovative Control Labs, Inc. | DTO/CF (2018)
Interactive installation
Atrium

JOEY HOLDER

Adcredo - The deep belief network (2018)
Films
Bakala Auditorium and Atrium

AFTERNOON BLIND DATA

INTRODUCTION to AFTERNOON TALKS

15.00 Alt-Age curators
Bakala Auditorium

TIMANDRA HARKNESS

15.25 *Title TBC*
Bakala Auditorium

DR MICHAEL DIETER

15.55 *Beyond Belief:
Being Converted in a Post-Truth Era*
Bakala Auditorium

NETWORK STUDY XIV - FLASH

16.00 - 16.27 Performance by
the Network Ensemble*
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of the Demystification Committee
Atrium

BARNEY JACKSON (FACTMATA)

16.25 *Detecting Fake News and Misinformation:
Spotting the Common Themes*
Bakala Auditorium

IN-CONVERSATION

17.00 With Timandra Harkness and
the Demystification Committee
Bakala Auditorium

18.00 - 20.00 Atrium works remain on view
(last entry 19.00)

KYRRE LIEN

The Internet Warriors (2017)
Film
Ulm Room

JOHN SMITH

Steve Hates Fish (2015) and *Who Are We?* (2016)
Films
Atrium

BIOS

BORA AKINCITURK is an artist addressing the terrors of present-day life and online simulations in the digital age. For Alt-Age, he has collaborated with coder **MEHMET DURAN** to build a new piece of software that mimics a hacker's activity.

DR CLARE BIRCHALL is senior lecturer in Contemporary Culture at King's College, London. Her research is interested in digital culture, contemporary conspiracies and transparency.

The DEMYSTIFICATION COMMITTEE is a framework for art and research investigating the covert systems of power that shape society.

DR MICHAEL DIETER is assistant professor at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at the University of Warwick and Visiting Research Fellow at Institute of Advanced Studies at University College London. His research includes cultural techniques in interface and user-experience design.

FACTMATA is a company assisting journalists, fact checkers and the public to detect, verify and fact check media information in close to real time.

TIMANDRA HARKNESS is a science writer, broadcaster and comedian. She is the author of *Big Data: does size matter?* and presents BBC Radio 4 series, *FutureProofing*.

JOEY HOLDER is an artist interested in the structures and hierarchies of the technological and the natural world and how these systems are constantly abstracted.

NATALIE KANE is Curator of Digital Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Her work explores the intersection of culture, design, futures and technology.

DANIEL KELLER is an artist whose work engages with issues at the intersection of economics, technology and culture.

TAYLOR LE MELLE is a curator, writer and researcher concerned with the manifestation of blackness through technology.

KYRRE LIEN is a visual journalist whose work has appeared in *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*, amongst others. He was named by *Forbes* as one of 30 young media entrepreneurs defining news and content in 2017.

JOHN SMITH is an artist and filmmaker. His films rework and transform reality, exploring the language of cinema by subverting perceived boundaries between documentary and fiction, representation and abstraction.

THANKS TO:

the
DESIGN
MUSEUM



Royal College of Art
Graduate Exhibition 2018

KICKSTARTER

ELEPHANT