

Memplex™

11 Dec 2021 to 5 Feb 2022
Opening: Saturday 11 Dec 4-7pm

Engineered by Omsk Social Club and Joey Holder

Minjeong An
David Cronenberg
Joey Holder
Botond Keresztesi
Kinke Kooi
Jack Jubb
Isaac Lythgoe
Katja Novitskova
Omsk Social Club
Transformella malor (fed and cared for by JP Raether)
Jonas Schoeneberg
Suzanne Treister

"I will start by telling you a little about Memplex™. We are a neutral hospital that specialises in neuro ops... which means we transplant a number of memes into a person's mind over their lifespan, it typically averages at 3 times a life. These memes are from various socio-political human factions - it is at no cost to the patient but the faction must pay - some factions have their own funds, others fundraise and a few have patrons who pay for their meme-corpse plantation."

Memplex™ from The Wet Altar, by Omsk Social Club, 2021

Memplex™ is two stories in one. The first explores the implementation of ideas, belief and conviction that occurs through memetic artefacts. In this instance they are political living memes that attach themselves to the host in order to perform a survivalist function, reminiscent of the pathogenic fungi Cordyceps. The Cordyceps is a genus of parasitic fungi that grows in the larvae of insects. When these fungi infect their host, they replace its tissue and sprout long, slender stems that grow outside the host's body. They are known to take over the mind of the host, controlling its mind and behaviour, leading to the nickname 'zombie fungi'. In the second part of the story, we learn that the human body now carries animal, mineral and botanical genes, and with contact this increases, bringing into question the human-centric narrative that is navigated through practices of Otherkin, Therian and Skinwalkers.

Analogous to this, Memplex™ as an exhibition acts as a body to host a contagion of performance, video, images and objects by Minjeong An, David Cronenberg, Botond Keresztesi, Kinke Kooi, Jack Jubb, Isaac Lythgoe, Katja Novitskova, Transformella malor (fed and cared for by JP Raether), Jonas Schoeneberg and Suzanne Treister.

A sound score, composed by Yikki underpins the exhibition, flooding into each room amongst medical equipment coloured infirmary green and Baker-Miller pink. This speculative organism has been grown by Joey Holder and Omsk Social Club responding to contemporary memetic currents and viral infrastructures.

This exhibition has been kindly and generously supported by PACT Zollverein.

Transformella malor [4.4.6.16]

(emerging from JP Raether's selfSistering as aLifveForms.earth)

Performance:

Sat, 11 December 2021

13:00 - 15:30

Transformella malor, an artificial being, constructed by language, technologies of skins and digital devices, holds a gathering to present and discuss their psychorealist findings on what they call „Reprovolution“ - the moments and sites driving the transformation of humanity's reproduction by means of industrial and globalised reproductive technologies.

At the gathering Transformella will share their embodied experience in harvesting fragments of knowledge and language, sites and lifetimetelines in „Repro-normality“, the invisible materialisation of globalised biotechnological speculation in everysite.

The gathering is part of a series of encounters that Transformellae have called ReprOReality HackLabs and that were hosted in Berlin, Luneburg and Utrecht in the recent years. They function as a communal nexus to weave a multiplicity of narrations and research, tools and devices for reproductive justice and and queer-feminist kinship.

The session will include readings of Transformella's repro-communal manifesto, their narrations of „lkeality“ - a stack of reproductive normalities found at the mass reproduction storage „lkeae everysite“ and more abstract models of entropy and negentropy of other Artificial Identities.

The gathering is also an intervention into narratives that are dominated by political formalism, professional knowledge barriers and corporate speculation. Transformella on the contrary invites to gather in queerness, expanding on mythopoetic figures and multi-species existence: Becoming chimera, reallional against biological essence and capitalist normalisations.