

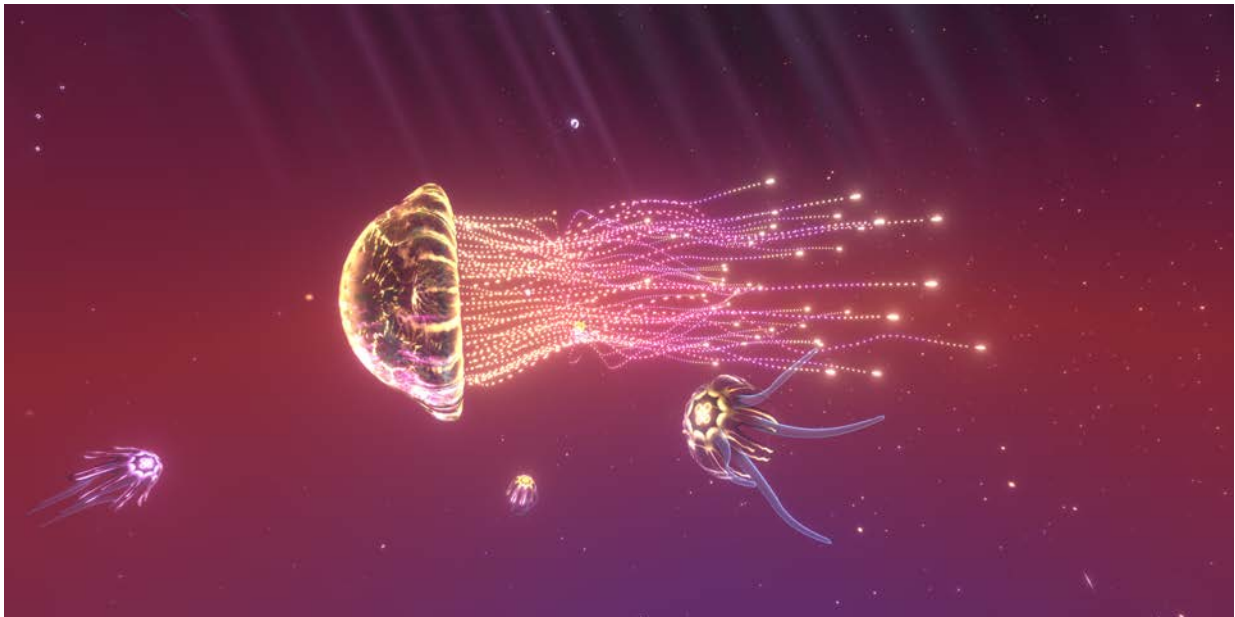
Press release

Earthbound - In Dialogue with Nature

03.09.-13.11.2022

Opening: Fri, 02.09.2022, 7 pm

Media tour: Fri, 02.09.2022, 11 a.m.



Méléodie Mousset, Edo Fouilloux, *The Jellyfish*, 2020. Screenshots from VR. Courtesy of the artist

The exhibition presents works by internationally renowned artists that provoke reflection on urgent environmental issues and, in particular, on the complex relationship between human activity and the ecosystem. It presents approaches to solutions and alternative models for a more sustainable coexistence with our environment.

Almost daily we are confronted with dramatic images of extreme weather phenomena - floods, hurricanes, or forest fires due to extreme drought. The littering of the oceans by accumulations of plastic, the loss of biodiversity and the extinction of species are among the serious problems that need to be solved. Global warming is progressing and it has been factually proven that it is largely caused by humans and that humans have become one of the most important influencing factors on biological, geological and atmospheric processes on earth. The exhibition presents artistic positions that deal with these issues and vision solutions.

The process of digitalisation has affected all areas of life - from the economy and cultural production to the private sphere. So the question is how we can design and use our digital tools for a sustainable use of our resources? What role can technology take on in terms of developing a biocentric worldview and coexistence in terms of cohabitation between humans and the ecosystem and all other species on the planet? The exhibition focuses on artistic practices in which media, technologies and technoscientific methods are used in art. A creative use of digital media and new technologies - Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, interactive and immersive installations, multimedia sculptures and video installations - invite the audience to engage critically, questioning the notion that humans are at the centre of creation and encouraging us to

abandon our egocentric perspective on this planet and rediscover our relationship with nature. Many of the works on show are based on an interdisciplinary approach and the collaboration of artists and scientists from a wide range of fields - from geology and meteorology to oceanography. Technology often creates distance, but the artists in the exhibition do not use technology as a guarantee for a "better" future, based on the assumption that purely technological solutions can save the planet, but rather use technology to enable us to perceive invisible ecological processes and thus contribute to a better coexistence with our environment.

Already in 2018, we realised an exhibition at the HEK under the title *Eco-Visionaries*, which illuminated the topic of ecological change and reflected on the role of art and the influence of media technologies in the discourse with science, technology and eco-activism. The exhibition is a continuation of this debate and shows that the topic will continue to occupy us in the coming years as one of the central tasks of our time. Hence the title of the exhibition: *Earthbound*. We only have this one earth and must find ways for a balanced coexistence, because a journey to other planets will not be an option.

The exhibition was created at the invitation of the European Capital of Culture Esch2022 in the south of Luxembourg, where it will be on display from 5 June to 14 August 2022 in the Möllerei, the premises of the former raw materials warehouse in Esch-Belval. For Basel, the exhibition will be further developed and different positions will be shown in some cases.

To accompany the exhibition, a comprehensive catalogue will be published by Hatje Cantz as part of the Esch2022 Capital of Culture, documenting the works and enriching them with scientific and philosophical contributions on the themes of sustainability, nature and diversity.

Artists: Tega Brain (AU), Melanie Bonajo (NL), Maria Castellanos & Alberto Valverde (ES), Donatien Aubert (FR), Gil Delindro (PT), Gilberto Esparza (MX), Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg (GB), Mary Maggic (US/AT), Mélodie Mousset (CH), Sabrina Ratté (FR), Rasa Smite & Raitis Smits (LT), Sissel Marie Tonn (DK), and others.

Curators: Sabine Himmelsbach and Boris Magrini

The exhibition at the HEK is generously supported by the Corymbo Foundation, the Fondation Didier et Martine Primat, the Fondation Odonata and the Sulger Foundation.

HASHTAGS #hek_basel #earthbound #Esch2022

Information:

HEK (House of Electronic Arts)
Freilager-Platz 9, 4142 Münchenstein/Basel

Opening hours: Wed-Sun, 12:00-18:00

Admission: 9 / 6 CHF (reduced), Wed-Fri 12:00-13:00 Happy Hour (free admission to the exhibition)

Public guided tours: Every Sunday at 15:00 in German

For more information: www.hek.ch

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About the HEK (House of Electronic Arts)

The HEK in Basel is Switzerland's national centre of excellence for all art forms that express and reflect themselves through new technologies and media. With its interdisciplinary orientation, the HEK enables a broad public to gain insights into art productions of different genres in the confrontation of art, media and technology. In a diverse programme of exhibitions, smaller festival formats, performances and concerts, the HEK addresses current social themes and issues as well as technological-aesthetic developments. In addition to its event and exhibition activities, the HEK is concerned with collection methodology and the preservation of digital art.