

Press release

CONNECT ME

Human x Nature x Technology



A new, major international exhibition by Danish museum of art and design Trapholt homes in on our relationships with the world. Called CONNECT ME, the show sees artists from all over the world investigate what it means to form relationships and connections – and how doing so can fundamentally challenge our idea of what it means to be human. The exhibition opens on 24 September 2022.

Witness a huge digital cherry tree that only blossoms when people embrace in front of it, walk on water and affect it with your reflected image, make the planets of our solar system sing, get up close to a 11-metre fir tree from root to tip and feel first-hand how artificial intelligence influences and challenges us in art and in everyday life.

In the wake of the current climate crisis, recent technological developments and the corona pandemic, our connections to nature, technology and each other have changed. The exhibition's subtitle Human x Nature x Technology reflects a collective movement towards new connections. We connect to nature through a new understanding and perception of it, we merge with technology, and we revisit what it means to have relationships with other people.

The artworks featured in the exhibition make us acutely aware that life arises in a network of human, technological, material and natural relations-



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hips. Throughout almost all of history and across cultures, humanity has regarded itself as something special – as raised above the animals, nature and all material things. The artworks in CONNECT ME reveal that quite the opposite is true – that everything is closely and mutually connected.

The artworks on display range from computer-generated processes to microorganisms in the soil. Cecilie Waagner Falkenstrøm has created an artificial intelligence that entices the viewer to share personal information, while Memo Akten's take on AI creates new images by filtering millions of pictures collected on the internet. Camilla Reyman has been digging matter into the ground for several months, letting the microorganisms found in the soil shape and govern its final appearance. Contemporary artists from Denmark and abroad have created multisensory installations that prompt us to reflect on our personal relationships with the world and what it really means to be human. What is a relationship? How does a relationship between a person and a thing arise? What does it mean to feel connected?

Says museum director Karen Grøn:

'We hear and read so much about the climate crisis, technological breakthroughs and human dissatisfaction and despondency – it's easy to feel powerless amidst this barrage of change. The artworks featured in the exhibition present us with an alternative space, another frame of experience to help us discuss and reflect on the society we are currently developing and how we see ourselves within this development. We need the arts to help establish experiences that are sensory and immediate in scope rather than cerebral in order to initiate and expand the important conversation about where society is headed and what role we can each play in that journey.'

CONNECT ME is Trapholt's third exhibition based on the theme of identity and personal worldviews. The first in the series was EAT ME in 2017, followed by SENSE ME in 2019. Main sponsor of the exhibition is A.P. Møller Fonden. The exhibition is also supported by: 15. Juni Fonden, Augustinus Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Region Syddanmark and Sydbank Fonden.

The exhibition CONNECT ME also sees Trapholt carry out full climate accounting to document the environmental liabilities incurred by an entire production from start to finish. The intention is to develop a prototype for such accounting which the museum can apply and further develop in the future. As part of Trapholt's green transition, the museum is carrying out concerted efforts to be certified as a Green Attraction. These initiatives were made possible by a grant from the Augustinus Foundation.

Featured artists:

Annie Sprinkle & Beth Stephens / USA

Astrid Mynkekær / Denmark

Camilla Reyman / Denmark

Cecilie Waagner Falkenstrøm / Denmark

Dorota Grabkowska / Poland

Eija-Liisa Ahtila / Finland

FOO/SKOU / Denmark

Jamie Diamond / USA

Lauren Lee McCarthy & Kyle McDonald / USA

Lilla LoCurto & Bill Outcault / Venezuela, USA

Lisa Park / South Korea

Mathias Bengtsson / Denmark

Memo Akten / Turkey

Olafur Eliasson / Iceland/ Denmark

Raquel Kogan & Rejane Cantoni / Brazil

Wong Ping / China

Yushi Li / China

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The exhibition opens 24.9.22 and runs through 13.08.23.