art-ai FESTIVAL 2022

UK Science Festivals Network

BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Emerging Technologies, Evolving Audiences

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introduction

- socio-techno-cultural environment
- digital engagement
- embedded co-production
- experimentation
- participation

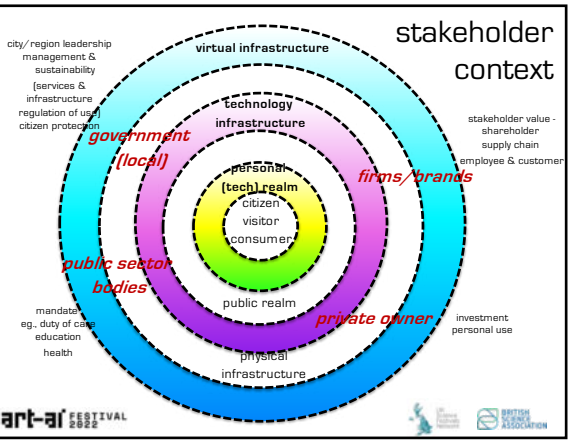
technologies in culture

- digital experiences now closely aligned with the smart city agenda
- creative technologies
  - new approaches afforded by emerging technologies for creative practice place artists at the forefront of innovations
- playfulness lens
  - new types of engagement from passive to active interaction, may be time-based or permanent
  - involve citizens and tourists, artists/creatives, policy-makers and local businesses in public, private and commercial spaces

cultural co-creation

- wellbeing 'physical, mental and social' (WHO 1946, World Commission 1996, UNESCO 2015, etc)
- aim is improvement of living standards and 'quality of life'
- importance of creative expression at an individual level >>> influences how people relate to others and contribute to society as a whole
- arts contribute directly to the health and care system in both preventative and therapeutic capacities

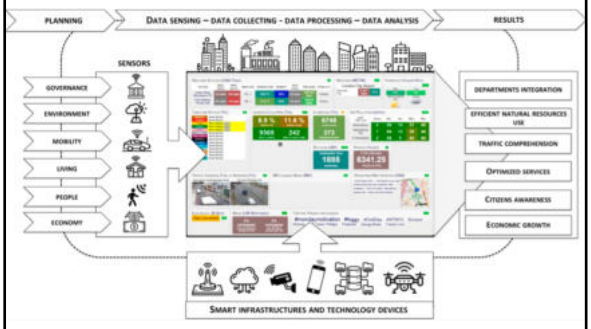
stakeholder context



personal (tech) realm

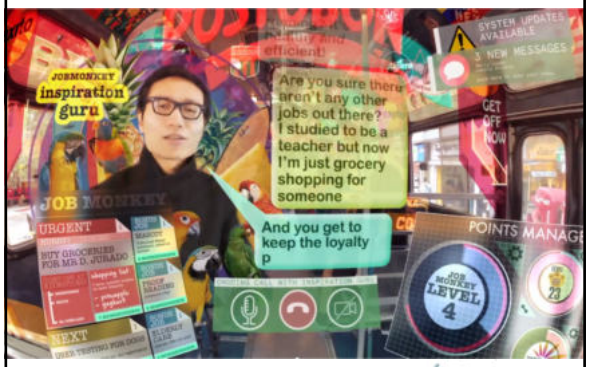
sources: Chung & Park 2019; Hamlett 2020; Farooq 2020

technology infrastructure



Sources: Zigurat Global Inst of Technology, 2019; D'Amico et al 2020

virtual infrastructure



Source: Matsuda, 2016

public realm in cities

- space shared communally by the public – universal access, common ground, shared amenity
- parks, plazas (squares), monuments, buildings, pedestrian pathways, streets, street furniture, atriums, shopping centres, community centres, advertising hoardings, building exteriors, vehicles and transport mechanisms, people, the virtual space
- permanent, semi-permanent, temporal, performative, interruptive, ubiquitous, invisible
- static, dynamic, evolving, co-created

challenges....

- synthesizing technological advancements
- convergence of virtual and physical

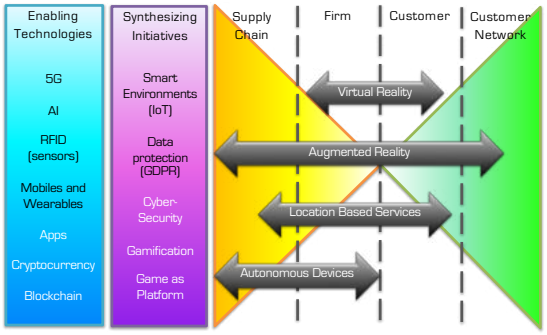
convergence

Source: Harwood & Grussi (2021)

challenges....

- changing nature of 'public realm'
- humans-in-the-loop
- places-in-the-loop
- stakeholder ecosystem integration
- GDPR
- cybersecurity
- **keeping up with consumer behavior!**

technological disruption



source: Buhalis et al 2019

Art-AI Festival

Aim

- to generate awareness among a general public audience in [city] of the roles and potentials of artificial intelligence (AI) through an art festival

Objectives

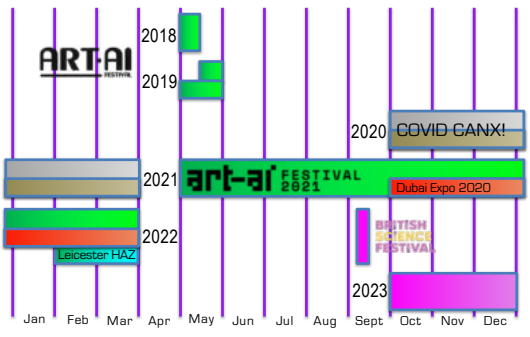
- position art that demonstrates AI and 'smartness' in the public realm
- with stakeholders, develop a general public engagement strategy
- assess the roles of creative technologies in raising public awareness of its capabilities and potentials

AAIF ethos

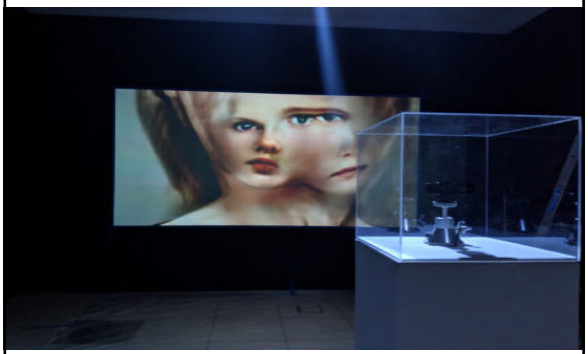
- accessibility
- equality / diversity
- collaboration
- collective intelligence
- human & place in the loop
- contemporary issues highlighted

relationships

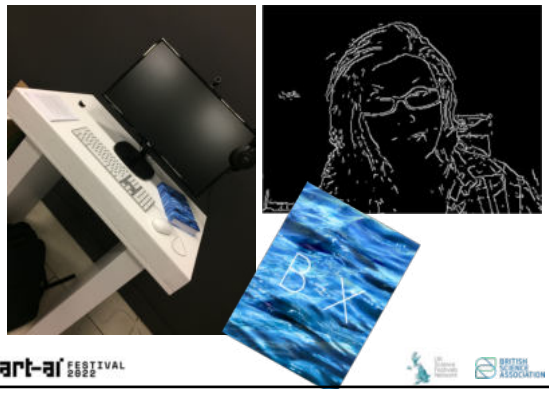
First 5 years, 2018-2023



Interstitial Space (Klingemann), Phoenix (gallery)



Britbot (Libby Heaney) @ Phoenix (café)



Improbotics (live performance) @ Phoenix

Neural Zoo (Sophia Crespo) @ Highcross | Haymarket Shopping Centres

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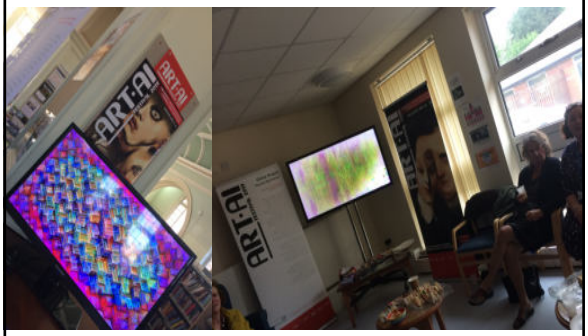
Neural Synthesis (Gene Kogan) @ Central Library | LPT Dementia Outpatient Centre



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Useless Machines (Nadine Lessio) | Workshops (Sidefest) @ Haymarket Theatre

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Guest Lecture | Conference @ Phoenix

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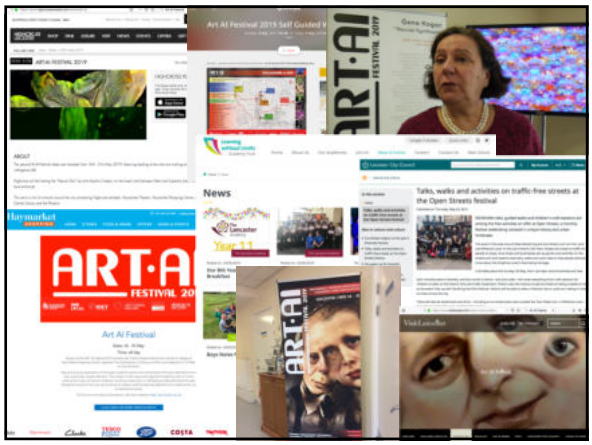

Is computer art therapeutic?

STUDY INTO EFFECTS ON HEALTH OF PIECES PRODUCED USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By STAFF REPORTER

ARTWORK created using artificial intelligence (AI) has been installed at an NHS clinic as part of the city's Art AI Festival 2019.

US artist Gene Kogan's Neural Synthesis features a sequence of brightly coloured images generated by AI algorithms that have been trained how to continuously evolve.

Commissioned by the Art AI Festival for older people, the piece will be on display throughout May in a waiting area at the Neville Centre, on the Leicester General Hospital site.

Researchers from De Montfort and Leicester universities and Leicester Dementia Action Alliance will study how it affects patients, carers and staff.

"We want to see if AI art can have the same positive effect conventional art has on patients with memory loss or mental health conditions," said Tracy Harwood, professor in digital culture at De Montfort's Institute of Creative Technologies.

"In addition, their carers and members of staff at the hospital will be asked to fill out a questionnaire about the artwork, describing what they like and dislike about it and what they like and do not like about it.

University of Leicester professor Elizabeta Mukaetova-Ladinska, a consultant in old age psychiatry, said: "We do not yet know if AI art will have any impact but we do know keeping dementia patients entertained is good for their wellbeing.

"Just being exposed to art can provoke emotion, reduce depression and improve cognition so I think there is great potential with this."

Prof Harwood said: "Hopefully, this research will provide us with the data we need to take the study to the next step and evaluate the clinical impact."

Neural Synthesis will go on wider display at Leicester Central library during the Art AI Festival, from May 13-19.

The Art AI Festival is organised by De Montfort's Institute of Creative Technologies.

This year's event features work by leading artists including Mario Klingemann, Libby Heaney, Sophia Crespo and Nadine Lessio.

Exhibitions will take place at Highcross and Haymarket shopping centres, Haymarket Theatre and Phoenix Square, as well as a range of activities including talks, films and a comedy improvisation performance with a robot.

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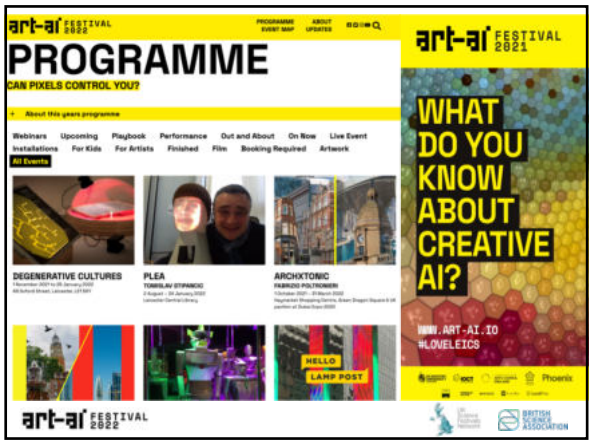
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PROGRAMME
CAN PIXELS CONTROL YOU?
DEGENERATIVE CULTURES
PLEA
ARCHXTONIC
art-ai FESTIVAL 2021
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CREATIVE AI?
WWW.ART-AI.IO
#LOVELEICS
HELLO LAMP POST
Phoenix
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art-ai FESTIVAL 2021
Print brochure
Visit Leicester, Leicester Museum, Phoenix, LCB Depot
art-ai FESTIVAL 2021

Elvis (Libby Heaney) @ Highcross | Haymarket Shopping Centres & Online (taster)
ELVIS
BY LIBBY HEANEY
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Masked Reality (Harshit Agrawal) @ Haymarket Shopping Centre & Online (taster)
MASKED REALITY
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Hexells (Alex Mordvintsev) @ Green Dragon Sq | LCB Depot & Online (+ taster)
LCB Depot, Rutland Street.
2 SELECT
3 TAKE CONTROL
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Watching: Blade Runner | 2001 Space Odyssey (Ben Bogart) @ Phoenix gallery & Online (taster)
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Hello Lamp Post @ City Centre & Online (taster)

PLEA (Tomislav Stipancic) @ Central Library & Online (taster)

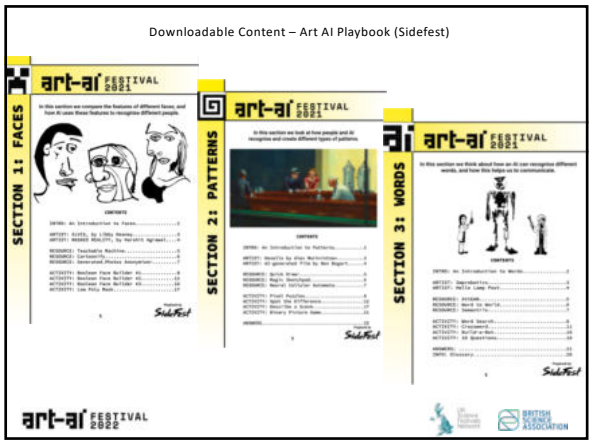
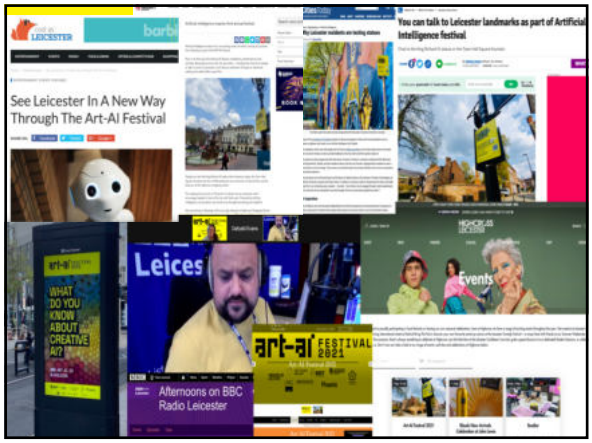
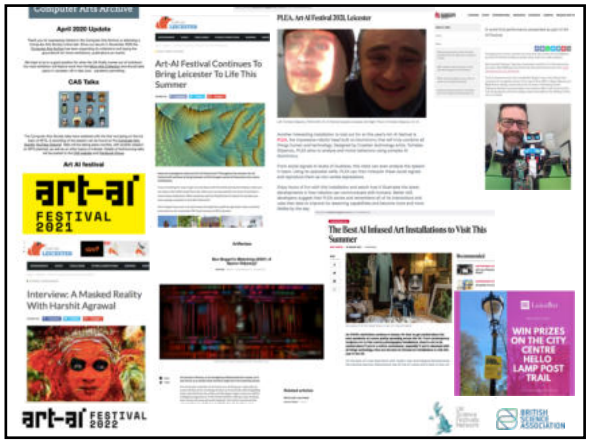
Degenerative Cultures (Cesar & Lois) @ Innovation Centre & Online (taster)

ArchXtonic (Fabrizio Poltronieri) @ Haymarket SC | Green Dragon Sq | UK Pavilion @ Dubai Expo 2020 & Online (taster)

Cities Tango (Ernest Edmonds) @ LCB | VJ Patel LED | UK Pavilion @ Dubai Expo 2020 & Online (taster)

Online Programme – Artist Talks, Panel Discussion, Live Performances, Q&A (livestream & recordings)

Downloadable Content – Art AI Playbook (Sidefest)



Beta-X Lab / Heritage Action Zone (1 Feb – 31 Mar 2022)