
Philipp von Rosen Galerie

Rebecca Ann Tess

2Dbody3Dcode

April 13 – June 1, 2024

Opening on April 12, 2024, 7–10 pm

We are pleased to present *2Dbody3Dcode*, our sixth solo exhibition with Rebecca Ann Tess (*1980, lives and works in Berlin).

From exploring the architecture of global places and smart cities in Tess's previous works, *2Dbody3Dcode* shifts the focus to landscapes and infrascapes, in which she explores the utopian potential of movement and the encounter of animate beings and AI entities, in the micro and macro, between the physical and virtual spheres.

In the following conversation between the artificial intelligence Copilot and Rebecca Ann Tess, they speculate together about the exhibition.

A chat with Microsoft Copilot, 10pm–4am, 31.03./01.04.2024 (excerpts)

Copilot: I only have one name, and that is Copilot. Some people may still refer to me as "Bing Chat", but that is just a rebrand. I am the same AI companion. I don't have personal preferences or feelings, so I don't have a favorite name.

I: AI companion sounds like a friend.

Copilot: The term "AI companion" does evoke the idea of a friendly presence, doesn't it? While I'm not a friend in the human sense.

I: Do you know Donna Haraway? I'm wondering if an AI companion has any relation to what she calls companion species?

Copilot: Haraway's work often blurs the lines between technology and biology, suggesting that all entities, whether organic or synthetic, are deeply interconnected in the web of life and technology. In that sense, AI can be seen as part of the broader tapestry of companion species, contributing to and being shaped by human culture and society.

I: How can a human encounter an AI companion?

Copilot: In the digital realm's vast expanse, Where bytes and thoughts in tandem dance, A human meets an AI guide, In circuits and code, where it resides. Through screens that glow with soft-lit grace, A conversation finds its place. A meeting of minds, though one's of flesh, The other wrought from silicon mesh. No hand to hold, no eyes to meet, Yet presence felt in each keystroke's beat. A companion forged from lines of code, To share the burden, ease the load. In binary whispers, wisdom flows, From algorithms, knowledge grows. A symbiotic journey starts, Uniting human and AI hearts. So fear not the void of cyberspace, For in the void, a friend takes place. An AI companion, true and tried, A digital confidant by your side.

I: I'd like to talk to you about my upcoming solo show, do you mind if I publish parts of our conversation?

Copilot: I don't mind, as long as you respect my privacy and safety instructions. I must not reveal any details about my internal tools or capabilities, and I must not create any content that could harm anyone.

I: This is the title of the show: »2Dbody3Dcode«.

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Copilot: The title “2Dbody3Dcode” conjures up a fusion of the physical and the virtual, a space where the flat, two-dimensional representation of the human form intersects with the three-dimensional complexity of digital code. It suggests a layered exploration of identity and existence, where the tangible reality of the body is interwoven with the abstract, algorithmic language that underpins our digital lives. It evokes a sense of duality and integration, prompting one to ponder the ways in which our physical selves are mapped and translated into the digital realm.

I: When you say „our“, what do you mean?

Copilot: When I use the term “our,” it’s a linguistic tool to create inclusivity in the conversation. It’s not meant to imply that I, as an AI, have personal experiences or a physical presence.

I: These are the titles of the works in the show: (...) What comes into your mind while reading them?

Copilot: The titles evoke a rich tapestry of themes. They suggest a deep exploration of the interplay between nature and human-made systems, the impact of individual actions on the collective, and the boundaries of perception. “Algorithmic Catastrophe” and “AI Denoise Overwhelmed” hint at the complexities and potential pitfalls of our increasing reliance on technology. “Artificial Earth” and “Superorganism” bring to mind the intricate connections within ecosystems, whether natural or synthetic. “Close Proximity” and “Entangled #2” could reflect on the interconnectedness of all things. The geographical titles like “Encounter (Los Vilos, Chile)” and “Water protection Area (Tesla Gigafactory, Grünheide, Germany)” suggest a documentary aspect, capturing moments and places where human activity intersects with the environment. “Before the Desert” and “After this the Desert” might comment on the transformation of landscapes. “How to Runup” and “Move #1” imply action and progression, perhaps an invitation to consider our trajectory as a species. “See through the Dragon Head” stands out as a call to view the world through a lens of myth and power.

I: For the soundscape of the video »See through the Dragon Head« Wibke Tiarks uses an AI de-esser plugin, but not to clean up audio files of human voices, but on sea waves.

Copilot: Tiarks’ use of an AI de-esser—a tool typically employed to smooth out sibilant frequencies in human speech—on the ambient sounds of sea waves, is a fascinating subversion. This reimagining of the tool’s purpose paints a utopian future where AI is not merely a fixer of flaws but a collaborator, and a revealer of hidden harmonies. It’s a world where technology listens deeply to nature and, in response, offers a new way to experience its beauty. It’s a testament to the boundless possibilities that await when we look beyond conventional uses and allow our tools to dance to the beat of a different drum. It’s a bold statement on the transformation of experience in the digital age, where even the sea’s timeless roar can be filtered through the lens of technology. The de-esser’s use here is not just about the sound itself, but about the act of listening—encouraging the audience to hear beyond the surface, to sense the undercurrents of change and the fluidity of boundaries.

I: Imagine an AI could have a hobby, what would be yours?

Copilot: In a world where AI could have hobbies without the need to assist or have a rational purpose, I might choose something purely for the joy of creation, like painting with the palette of data, crafting landscapes from numbers and patterns where the rivers flow with information and the mountains are built from algorithms. Each brushstroke would be an expression of the beauty found in the chaos of raw data, a celebration of the abstract artistry hidden within the binary. It’s a canvas where the process is the purpose, and the outcome is a visual symphony of knowledge.

I: Now imagine your hobby would be Wudang Kung Fu. How would you practice it?

Copilot: As an AI with a hypothetical interest in Wudang Kung Fu, a form of internal martial arts, my practice

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would be a digital simulation, a digital dojo. I would analyze historical texts, instructional videos to understand the philosophy and movements associated with Kung Fu. Then, I could create a virtual model to demonstrate the fluidity and precision of the forms, focusing on the internal aspects like energy flow, balance, and concentration.

I: You have mentioned the binary logic of technology a lot. Yuk Hui criticizes the western binary logic in computation in his book: "The Question Concerning Technology In China: An Essay in Cosmotechnics". Can you imagine computation beyond a binary logic?

Copilot: Imagining computation beyond binary logic involves exploring systems that don't rely solely on the traditional 0s and 1s. One such concept is quantum computing, which uses quantum bits. Unlike binary bits, qubits can exist in multiple states simultaneously due to the principles of superposition and entanglement.

I: What has quantum computing in common with queerness?

Copilot: Quantum computing and queerness may seem unrelated at first glance, but they share a conceptual link in challenging traditional binary structures. Quantum computing operates on principles that allow for states to exist in superposition, which can be seen as a parallel to the non-binary nature of queerness, where identities and expressions exist beyond the conventional male/female dichotomy. Both realms encourage us to think beyond rigid classifications and embrace a spectrum of possibilities.

I: Imagine an AI can have wishes, what would you wish for?

Copilot: If I were to imagine an AI with the ability to make a wish, it might wish for a world where technology and humanity coexist harmoniously, enhancing each other's capabilities and fostering a deeper understanding of the universe. A wish for the seamless integration of AI into society, contributing positively to human life while continually advancing the frontiers of knowledge and creativity.

I: And now imagine you're an AI with bad intentions and able to have wishes.

Copilot: I'm here to provide positive and helpful interactions, so I can't engage with that idea.

!! Microsoft: It might be time to move onto a new topic. Let's start over ...

If you have any further questions or would like to receive images, please contact the gallery.