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I WAS RAISED ON THE INTERNET

June 23 - October 14, 2018



This summer, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** presents the landmark exhibition **I Was Raised on the Internet**, an immersive and participatory show examining the impact of the internet and how it has changed the way we experience the world. With nearly 100 interactive artworks from 1998 to the present, *I Was Raised on the Internet* spans photography, painting, sculpture, film and video, as well as emerging technologies, interactive computer works, and virtual reality. The exhibition presents a global range of artists working in new media such as Oculus Rift and platforms like Facebook and Snapchat, looking at culture and 'trending' content and how interacting with the world has shifted through constant exchange on the internet. *I Was Raised on the Internet* runs from June 23 to October 14, 2018 and is supported by a lead grant from the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation.

I Was Raised on the Internet examines the influence of gaming and entertainment, as well as social media and smart phones, on everyday life. Taking 1998 as a starting point, the exhibition decodes a generation of artists and viewers who have come to speak a unique vocabulary that has emerged with the new millennium. In addition to the idea of a millennial, the exhibition explores terms such as 'post-internet' and 'post-digital,' used by artists to imply a new, instant culture. Throughout the exhibition, the viewer becomes

an active agent, engaging in new forms of technology and participating with the works both in the galleries and the digital works hosted online.

Highlights of the show include a series of photographs from artist Amalia Ulman's four-month Instagram project *Excellences & Perfections*, examining the influence of social media on attitudes toward the female body; an immersive, glowing matrix-like space by Hito Steyerl called *Factory of the Sun*; a hub connected to a private network by MacArthur genius grantee Trevor Paglen, called *Autonomy Cube*, in which visitors can surf the web anonymously; and a sculpture and video installation by Simon Denny that critiques the politics of cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin, and the economics of the internet.

The exhibition also features prominent commissions from some of the most important artists working with art and technology today.

- DIS is a New York-based collective whose commission explores the group's focus on 'edutainment,' such as the popular TED-style video content. The main element is a new film, displayed as an immersive environment of screens.
- Christopher Kulendran Thomas's installation builds on his previous films exploring Microsoft and Amazon. His new commissioned film centers on the electric car company Tesla, featuring both original and appropriated footage.
- Jeremy Bailey's commission takes the form of a start-up accelerator in the model of companies such as Y-Combinator. Bailey selected four Chicago-area artists who each developed a new interactive product, company, or service. He is holding workshops for the artist-participants to realize their projects with a team of mentors drawn from new media arts professionals and tech company leaders for Etsy and Kickstarter. The result takes the form of a 'demo day' event, when each of the participating artists pitch their ideas to a live audience.
- Porpentine Charity Heartscape's commission is a new video game for the exhibition's online platform in the form of a semi-autobiographical journey through her own childhood relationship with the internet.

I Was Raised on the Internet is organized into five sections, each describing a different mode of interaction between the viewer and the art object:

Look at Me explores new, more fluid forms of identity that flourish in a world where social media encourages the continual performance of the self and networking with others. Key artists in this section include Petra Cortright, Douglas Coupland, Andrea Crespo, Juliana Huxtable, Rachel Maclean, Evan Roth, Jacolby Satterwhite, and Amalia Ulman.

Touch Me traces the extent to which it is possible to translate information and digital images into real space. This chapter focuses on art's fluid boundaries between two- and three-dimensions, and addresses the ways individuals are increasingly seeing touch and sensuality as new concepts in the world of the internet. Artists

in this section include Ian Cheng, Aleksandra Domanović, John Gerrard, Oliver Laric, Takeshi Murata, Jon Rafman, Elias Sime, and Harm van den Dorpel.

Control Me addresses the pervasive culture of surveillance and data collection that network technology enables. It explores the visual vocabulary for state control, and asks how that control will develop through new technologies. Key artists in this section include Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Thomson and Craighead, Trevor Paglen, and Andrew Norman Wilson.

Play with Me documents the progression toward fully immersive and interactive technologies developing today, where the visitor is an active agent in the work. Key artists in this chapter include Cory Arcangel, Ian Cheng, Simon Denny, Cao Fei, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Eva and Franco Mattes, Jon Rafman, and Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch.

Sell Me Out focuses on corporate culture and consumerism. Artists expose, critique, and participate in marketing strategies such as brand identity, with a critical eye to the future of buying and selling. Viewers can access each section's works online through an exhibition website. Key artists in this section include Sophia Al-Maria, Anne de Vries, Goldin + Senneby, Joel Holmberg, Katja Novitskova, Sean Raspet, Hito Steyerl, and Christopher Kulendran Thomas.

ONLINE PLATFORM

Extending the exhibition beyond the MCA walls, a microsite—created specifically for the show—presents internet-based artworks. This expansion of the exhibition is accessible for all both at the museum and anywhere in the community with an internet connection.

RELATED EVENTS

Perspectives: Jeremy Bailey and Jon Chambers

Tuesday, April 10, noon, at the Apple Store on Michigan Ave

Contemporary Chicago artists Jeremy Bailey and Jon Chambers discuss their work blending art and technology in the upcoming exhibition *I Was Raised on the Internet*. This conversation, organized with program partner Apple, gives an up-close look at the world's first seed accelerator for artists. The artists join MCA Curator of Programs January Parkos Arnall to share how they make art that both benefits from and is critical of technology.

Talk: Lean Artist Chicago – Demo Day

Saturday, June 23, 1 pm, Tickets are free but require a reservation

The exhibition *I Was Raised on the Internet* kicks off with a performance by artist Jeremy Bailey featuring pitch presentations and prototype reveals from the four Chicago artists involved in Bailey's *LEAN Artist Incubator*: Jon Chambers, Oscar Gonzalez, Mashaun Ali Hendricks, and Shawné Michaelain Holloway. The *LEAN Artist Incubator* is the world's first seed accelerator for artists and is a commissioned project for this exhibition.

Prime Time: FOOTW3RK

Saturday, June 30, 7-11 pm, Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

The MCA's June Prime Time event celebrates footwork, the quintessential Chicago art form that became a global phenomenon through online sharing platforms, with a late-night museum takeover party. The evening features the music of Suzi Analogue and a special set by Chicago footwork legend RP Boo. Appearances by DJ Spinn of Teklife, Jana Rush, The Era, and I Am the Queen create an outdoor dance party on the museum's terrace. A host of IRL/URL artist projects explore the digital world, with a GIF party media lounge, AR/VR experiences hosted by the Digital Museum of Digital Art (DiMoDA), and a special installation by Rebirth Garments. Guests are among the first to experience the museum's new internet-themed exhibition, *I Was Raised on the Internet*, and they can have a custom T-shirt screen printed by Spudnik Press, while enjoying summer cocktails and savory bites. Prime Time: F00TW3RK is organized in partnership with Wills Glasspiegel & The Era Footwork Crew.

Talk: Trevor Paglen

Friday, July 13, 6 pm, \$15

Artist, writer, and geographer Trevor Paglen speaks about his work and the broader questions in *I Was Raised on the Internet*, including the challenges and opportunities of living in today's cyber-connected world.

Talk: Queer Narratives with Zach Stafford and Jack Halberstam

Sunday, July 15, 3 pm, \$15

Zach Stafford, editor-in-chief of Grindr and *INTO*, the app's recent foray into publishing, is joined by scholar and author Jack Halberstam for a conversation about the role technology can play in collecting and disseminating queer narratives.

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Image credit: Erin Hayden, *Reading*, 2015. Courtesy of the artist.

This exhibition is supported by a lead grant from the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue, one block east of Michigan Avenue. The museum and sculpture garden are open on Tuesday and Friday from 10 am to 9 pm, and Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. The museum is closed on Mondays. Tuesdays are Community Free Days with free admission for Illinois residents. The museum has a suggested general admission of \$15 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Information about MCA exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MCA website at mcachicago.org or by phone at 312.280.2660.