



## Digital Society Forum

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/ "Artists & Robots" that make us think about our digital age

News

17/04/2018

# "Artists & Robots" that make us think about our digital age



*Robot Art* (2017) by the Portuguese artist Leonel Moura: it is the swarm of robots "with variable dimensions" that makes the paintings. This work is at the beginning of the exhibition *Artists & Robots*, in the part "The machine to create". © Leonel Moura / photo Rmn-GP - Thomas Granovsky

**The *Meta-Matic* Jean Tinguely, mini robot designers from the 1950s to *Orlan* and *ORLANoïde*, *electronic and verbal striptease* [↗ \(https://digital-society-forum.orange.com/fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-139expo-artistes-robots\)](https://digital-society-forum.orange.com/fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-139expo-artistes-robots), created for this exhibition, *Artists & Robots* offers an interesting panorama of works related to technology, following a path with**

**educational guidance. Above all, it is an opportunity to confront many questions in our digital world today and tomorrow. To see until July 9, 2018 at the Grand Palais in Paris.**

A white screen spotted with black virtual insects, in front of which a person approaches ... The flies gather quickly, drawing his portrait. When the viewer leaves, the camera connected to the screen no longer receives data useful to their activity, so the flies resume their "random" positions on the screen, and the portrait disappears. The interactivity between the viewer and the work is quite evident in this 2015 creation, Portrait on the Fly, by Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau. Like the other artistic proposals of this exhibition, it questions our contemporary world and the direction in which it evolves, through more and more sophisticated creative or creative machines, born for the moment from the human imagination, but why not in the not-so-distant future of the imagination of other machines ...

[Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer - Portrait on the fly \(fr/https://vimeo.com/174511613\)](https://vimeo.com/174511613)  
from [Charlot \(fr/https://vimeo.com/galeriecharlot\)](https://vimeo.com/galeriecharlot) on [Vimeo \(fr/https://vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com) [Gallery \(fr/https://vimeo.com/galeriecharlot\)](https://vimeo.com/galeriecharlot) .

## **Code and existence**

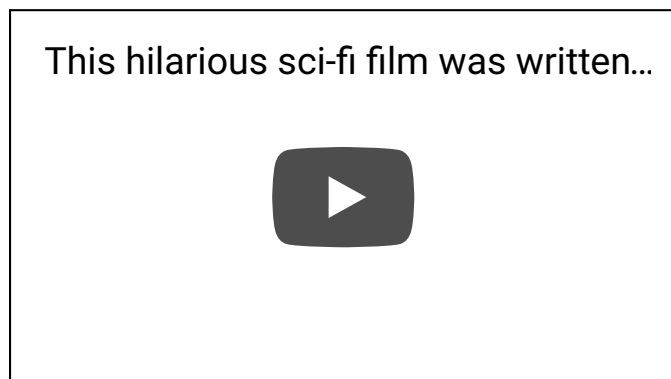
If this work encourages reflection on the use of the selfie today, and more generally on the ego, it also summons the flies to speak to us of futility and vanity, in a line of much more classical artistic productions, like the did earlier in the exhibition Artists & Robots, Human Study # 2 Great Raven and Raven Vanity (2004-2017) by Patrick Tresset, a work in which three robotic systems produce figurative drawings.

The big difference is that between the room of Patrick Tresset on the ground floor of the Grand Palais and that of Sommerer and Mignonneau a floor above, the machine has acquired much more intelligence. From pieces by Jean Tinguely, Nicolas Schöffer and Nam June Paik to those

by Ryoji Ikeda, Miguel Chevalier, Stelarc, ORLAN, Takashi Murakami, Catherine Ikam and Louis Fléri, as well as Leonel Moura's robot painters on wheels the exhibition has indeed a little something historic about this territory of digital arts, connected to the great technological upheavals since the 1960s. It comes through the bias of three sequences, with first "the machine to create "(the artist creates machines that" create "works), then" the programmed work "(the program or algorithm has replaced the robot and can even use the viewer to make the work live) and to finish "The robot emancipates itself" - in fact not quite yet, but it is felt that it is for tomorrow. And that the progress of artificial intelligence will soon destabilize our appreciation of our physical reality, even psychic, in art as in the rest of our environment.

## The human in a robotic future

A preview is given with the work *Sunspring*, dated 2016: a sci-fi short film imagined by Oscar Sharp but entirely written by an artificial intelligence, previously fed several scenarios, who learned to do this work. A sort of artistic deep learning, a possible descendant of the old computer-created poems (like those of Alison Knowles), quite absurd, but quite in tune with the questions of the moment about the "end of the work" - or rather the mass of jobs that could unexpectedly be made by machines: lawyer, insurer, journalist, radiologist, etc.



*This hilarious sci-fi film was written by artificial intelligence* : the New York Post's YouTube presentation of the 9-minute short film *Sunspring* .

Finally, a quote from the author of SF William Gibson posted on the penultimate wall invites us to continue the reflection outside (and no doubt also in ourselves). To quote only one end already installs the point: "The Earth is the alien planet of today. What monster world are we concocting our algorithms? What vision will artists offer us tomorrow sharing? Answers to come, perhaps, in a complementary suite to this exhibition, where we would also invite creations related to mobiles and networks.



[Marthe Aurele \(fr/auteur/4551-aurele-marthe\)](fr/auteur/4551-aurele-marthe)

◀ 14

◀ 2

## Comments

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## The sources of this article

### Patrick Tresset (<http://patricktresset.com/new/>)

The site of the artist Patrick Tresset, who creates devices for automated portraits of individuals or animals. (<http://patricktresset.com/new/>)

Website of the artist [↗](#)

### Leonel Moura (<http://www.leonelmoura.com/>)

The website of Portuguese artist Leonel Moura, who has been working since the 1990s on devices incorporating robots and now artificial intelligence. (<http://www.leonelmoura.com/>)

Website of the artist [↗](#)

### Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer (<http://www.interface.ufg.ac.at/christa-laurent/>)

The site of the couple of digital artists Maurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer, pioneer of interactive devices mixing reality with sensors and elements of virtual. (<http://www.interface.ufg.ac.at/christa-laurent/>)

Artists website [↗](#)

### **Artists and Robots (<https://www.grandpalais.fr/fr/evenement/artistes-robots>)**

The page dedicated to the exhibition Artists & Robots in the National Galleries of the Grand Palais, from April 5 to July 9, 2018. Including works by Jean Tinguely, Nicolas Schöffer, Nam June Paik, ORLAN, Miguel Knight, Leonel Moura, Patrick Tresset, Ryoki Ikeda, Edmond Couchot and Michel Bret, Catherine Ikam and Louis Fléri, Fabien Giraud and Raphael Siboni, Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, Stelarc, Oscar Sharp, Takashi Murakami, etc. (<https://www.grandpalais.fr/fr/evenement/artistes-robots>)

**Meeting of National Museums, Grand Palais** |

05.04.2018 [↗](#)

## Associated forum



### **All creators?**

([fr/les-forums/270-forum-tous-createur](https://fr/les-forums/270-forum-tous-createur))

## Other news on this theme



News ([fr/les-actus/1078-intelligence-artificielle-un-outil-de-plus-dans-la-palette-de-lartiste](https://fr/les-actus/1078-intelligence-artificielle-un-outil-de-plus-dans-la-palette-de-lartiste))

26/04/2018

**Artificial Intelligence: Another Tool in the Artist's Palette ([fr/les-actus/1078-intelligence-artificielle-un-outil-de-plus-dans-la-palette-de-lartiste](https://fr/les-actus/1078-intelligence-artificielle-un-outil-de-plus-dans-la-palette-de-lartiste))**



News ([fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-l39expo-artistes-robots](https://fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-l39expo-artistes-robots))

16/04/2018

**ORLAN is the digital woman of the exhibition Artists & Robots ([fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-l39expo-artistes-robots](https://fr/les-actus/1071-orlan-est-la-femme-digitale-de-l39expo-artistes-robots))**



Dating (fr/les-actus/1020-le-345-534-de-l39atelier-34tous-createurs-tous-spectateurs-34-a-strasbourg) 16/10/2017

**The "5/5" of the workshop "All creators, all spectators?" in Strasbourg (fr/les-actus/1020-le-345-534-de-l39atelier-34tous-createurs-tous-spectateurs-34-a-strasbourg)**



Dating (fr/les-actus/1003-le-345-534-de-l39atelier-34tous-createurs) 06/08/2017

**The "5/5" of the workshop "All creators, all spectators?" at the Avignon Festival (fr/les-actus/1003-le-345-534-de-l39atelier-34tous-createurs)**



Dating (fr/les-actus/1000-festival-davignon-atelier-tous-createurs-tous-spectateurs-)

19/07/2017

**Avignon Festival «All creators? All spectators? " (fr/les-actus/1000-festival-davignon-atelier-tous-createurs-tous-spectateurs-)**

**All the news (fr/les-actus/)**

## **Participate**

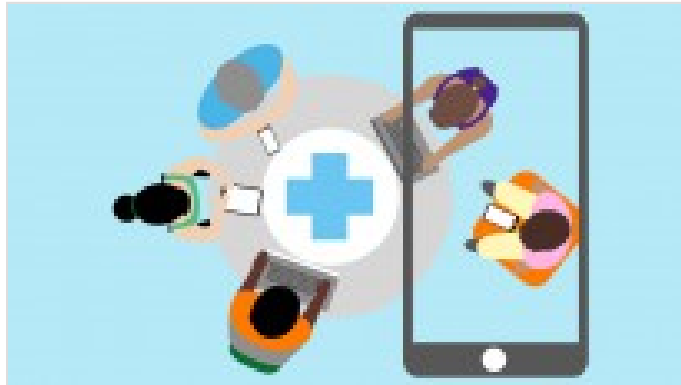
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**Register and participate (fr/inscription/)**



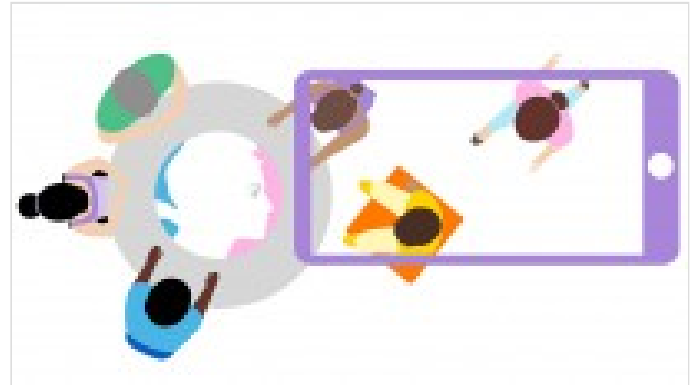
# The forums

[See all forums \(fr/les-forums/\)](#)



**Health and digital**

[\(fr/les-forums/292-forum-sante\)](#)



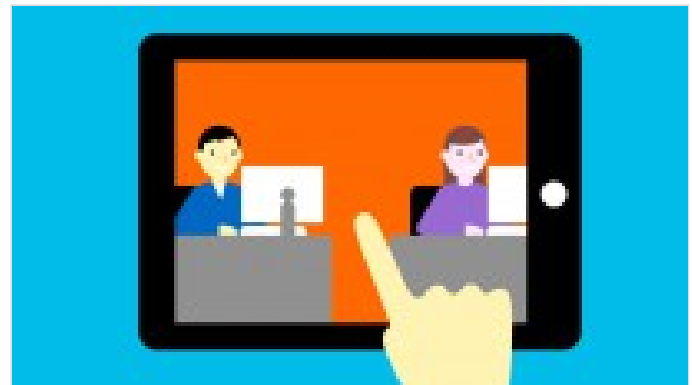
**New citizenship at the digital time**

[\(fr/les-forums/97-forum-internet\\_et\\_citoyennete\)](#)



**All creators?**

[\(fr/les-forums/270-forum-tous-createur\)](#)



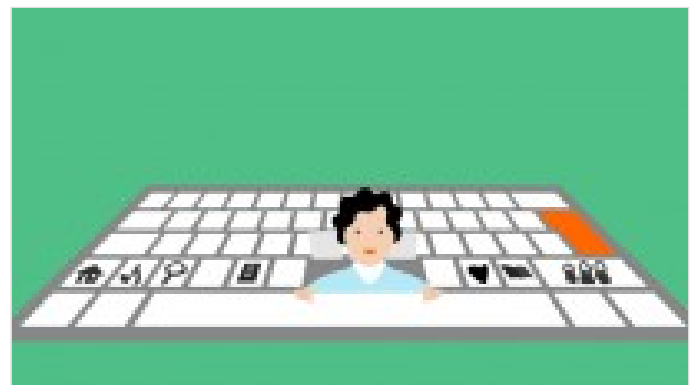
**Digital and employment**

[\(fr/les-forums/260-forum-numerique\\_et\\_emploi\)](#)



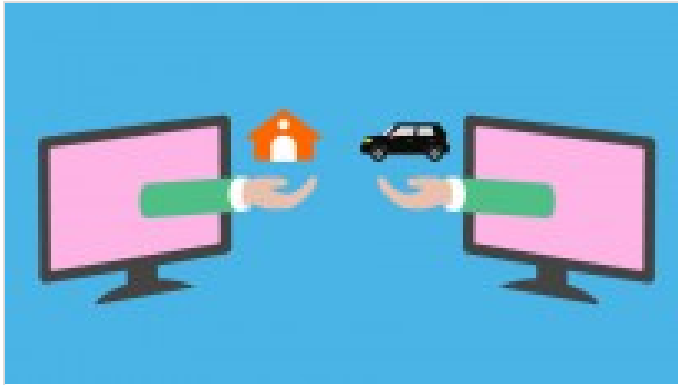
**Attention and informational abundance**

[\(fr/les-forums/220-forum-attention\\_et\\_abondance\\_informationnelle\)](#)



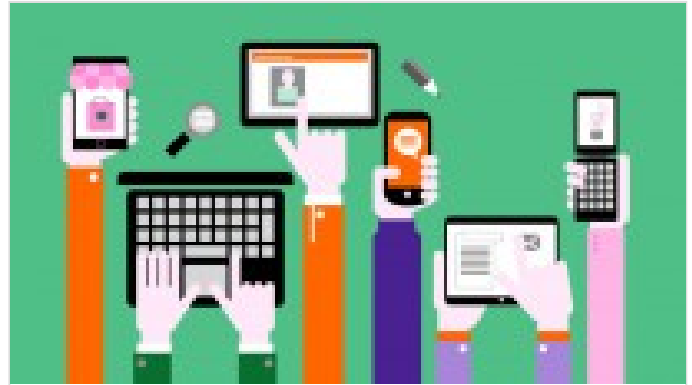
**Privacy and personal data**

[\(fr/les-forums/100-forum-vie\\_privée\\_et\\_données\\_personnelles\)](#)



**Collaborative consumption**

[http://fr/les-forums/99-forum-consommation\\_collaborative](http://fr/les-forums/99-forum-consommation_collaborative)



**Work and digital**

[http://fr/les-forums/98-forum-travail\\_et\\_numerique](http://fr/les-forums/98-forum-travail_et_numerique)

**Register and participate ([fr/inscription/](http://fr/inscription/))**

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(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/132735205@N05/albums>)

 (<http://www.scoop.it/u/digitalsocietyforum>)

 (<https://storify.com/DSF2013>)

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### **The project ([fr/le-projet/7-1.\\_a\\_propos\\_de\\_digital\\_society\\_forum](fr/le-projet/7-1._a_propos_de_digital_society_forum))**

About Digital Society Forum ([fr/le-projet/7-1.\\_a\\_propos\\_de\\_digital\\_society\\_forum](fr/le-projet/7-1._a_propos_de_digital_society_forum))

In a few words (<fr/le-projet/740-en-quelques-mots>)

The Digital Society Forum Charter ([fr/le-projet/9-3.\\_la\\_charte\\_digital\\_society\\_forum](fr/le-projet/9-3._la_charte_digital_society_forum))

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### **The forums (<fr/les-forums/>)**

Health and digital (<fr/les-forums/292-forum-sante>)

New citizenship at the digital time ([fr/les-forums/97-forum-internet\\_et\\_citoyennete](fr/les-forums/97-forum-internet_et_citoyennete))

All creators? (<fr/les-forums/270-forum-tous-createur>)

Digital and employment ([fr/les-forums/260-forum-numerique\\_et\\_emploi](fr/les-forums/260-forum-numerique_et_emploi))

Attention and informational abundance ([fr/les-forums/220-forum-attention\\_et\\_abondance\\_informationnelle](fr/les-forums/220-forum-attention_et_abondance_informationnelle))

Big Data ([fr/les-forums/101-forum-big\\_data](http://fr/les-forums/101-forum-big_data))

Privacy and personal data ([fr/les-forums/100-forum-vie\\_privee\\_et\\_donnees\\_personnelles](http://fr/les-forums/100-forum-vie_privee_et_donnees_personnelles))

Collaborative consumption ([fr/les-forums/99-forum-consommation\\_collaborative](http://fr/les-forums/99-forum-consommation_collaborative))

Work and digital ([fr/les-forums/98-forum-travail\\_et\\_numerique](http://fr/les-forums/98-forum-travail_et_numerique))

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## Meetings ([fr/les-rencontres/](http://fr/les-rencontres/))

New citizenships in the digital age ([fr/les-rencontres/99-nouvelles-citoyennetes-a-139heure-du-numerique](http://fr/les-rencontres/99-nouvelles-citoyennetes-a-139heure-du-numerique))

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## Partners ([fr/le-projet/27-2.\\_psychologies\\_magazine](http://fr/le-projet/27-2._psychologies_magazine))

Psychologies Magazine ([fr/le-projet/27-2.\\_psychologies\\_magazine](http://fr/le-projet/27-2._psychologies_magazine))

La Fing ([fr/le-projet/28-3.\\_la\\_fing](http://fr/le-projet/28-3._la_fing))

Edgar Morin Chair of Complexity ([fr/le-projet/353-chaire\\_edgar\\_morin\\_de\\_la\\_complexite](http://fr/le-projet/353-chaire_edgar_morin_de_la_complexite))

Orange Labs ([fr/le-projet/183-orange\\_labs](http://fr/le-projet/183-orange_labs))

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Digital Society Forum is a project initiated by Orange, in partnership with Psychologies Magazine and FING (New Generation Internet Foundation), and developed with BVA.

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