

DIGITAL ECOLOGIES & DEEP FAKES: NEW TECHNOLOGIES AT FUTURE NOW



Images: 1. Jakob Kudsk Steensen, *The Deep Listener* (2019). 2. Bill Posters, still from *Big Dada*. AI-synthesised video personas. Single-channel video, 3min 4sec. Courtesy of the artist. 3. Jakob Kudsk Steensen, *Primal Tourism* (2016).

4.6 billion people now use the internet. Leading artists Jakob Kudsk Steensen and Bill Posters consider the impact of changing digital worlds at Future Now.

1 January 1983 is widely considered to be the official “birthday” of the internet. Just under 40 years later, internet-use is soaring, with the rise of post-truth narratives, virtual reality and augmented reality, as well as deep fakes and organic simulations across a range of platforms. A series of innovative virtual events at the **Future Now Symposium (28 April-1 May)** explore the depths of our digitised landscape – with award-winning artists expanding on their innovative practices.

Jakob Kudsk Steensen is an environmental storyteller, using three-dimensional animation, sound and immersive installation to create complete digital ecosystems that blur the boundaries between organic and man-made worlds. He was the inaugural recipient of Serpentine Galleries’ Augmented Architecture Commission, which was established with **Google Arts & Culture and Sir David Adjaye in 2019**, and is longlisted for the 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize. **Kay Watson, Interim Head of Arts Technologies at Serpentine**, leads an innovative session with Steensen at the Future Now Symposium, examining the concept of “slow media” as well as the intricate and evolving relationship between technology and the natural world (**Live: 30 April, 11.00-12.00, On Demand until 31 May**).

In the context of the disinformation age, fake news and algorithmic bias, artists are beginning to creatively re-appropriate the freely available biometric data of others – the “public faces” of celebrities, politicians and influencers, to create a new form of art. **Bill Posters, shortlisted artist for the Aesthetica Art Prize in 2020**, will speak about his critical practice and research into the emerging field of synthetic art and why the artistic use of deep fake technologies can be more than just a commentary on the novelty of the technology itself (**Live: 1 May, 13.00-14.00, On Demand until 31 May**).

FUTURE NOW

AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM

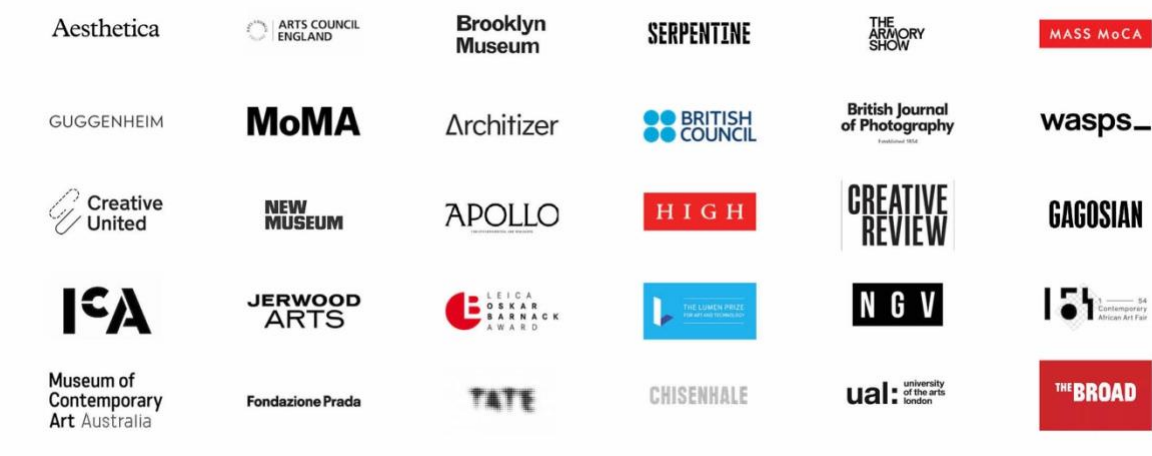
The Future Now Symposium runs live 28 April-1 May. All sessions are available On Demand until 31 May. Tickets are priced between £20 and £50, from a 24-hour festival login to a month of content, with access to 100 films, 1:1 portfolio reviews with industry experts and advice sessions with Arts Council England.

Key information for editors:

- The **Future Now Symposium** is an exploration of 21st century culture through the mechanism of art, live streamed events run 28 April – 1 May. On Demand sessions are available 2-31 May.
- This four-day virtual event brings together key institutions, galleries, publications and artists for live-streamed discussions surrounding the most pressing issues from today's creative industries. Future Now is a platform for idea generation, with imaginative debates, panel discussions, career advice and cultural engagement.
- **Future Now finds a new home in an accessible online space for 2021.**
- **All ticketholders can also stream an expansive programme of 100 ground-breaking independent films** across Dance, Experimental, Documentary and Artists' Film.
- **Our platform can be accessed on computers, smart TVs, smart phones and all tablet devices.** There is no requirement to pre-register for sessions as they will be live streamed.
- **Tickets are £20 for a 24-hour log-in, £40 for a four-day log-in and £50 for the full one-month access.**
- **Representatives at Future Now 2021 include:** Aesthetica, Architizer, Arts Council England, Apollo Magazine, The Armory Show, Athi-Patra Ruga, Bieke Depoorter, Bill Posters, British Journal of Photography, British Council, Chisenhale Gallery, Creative Review, Creative United, Fahamu Pecou, Fondazione Prada, Frieze, Gagosian, George Byrne, Gonçalo Fonseca, Guggenheim Museum, Gulnara Samoilova, High Museum of Art, Ian Volner, Jerwood Arts, ICA Boston, International Center of Photography, Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Leica Oskar Barnack Award, London Art Fair, London College of Communication, Luca Locatelli, The Lumen Prize, Maïmouna Guerresi, Magnum Photos, MASS MoCA, Museum of Modern Art, MCA Australia, New Museum, NGV Melbourne, Serpentine Galleries, Shirin Neshat, Tales of Us, Tate, V&A, Wasps Studios, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair.
- **Future Now 2021 offers 1:1 Portfolio Reviews** across the four days, with representatives from **the V&A, British Journal of Photography, Fabrica, Aesthetica, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Serpentine Galleries, Moniker Art Fair Artangel and Gazelli Art House, as well as a number of independent artists. Pre-booking online.**
- **Arts Council England are also offering a series of 1:1 Advice Sessions. Pre-booking essential online.**
- **The Future Now Symposium coincides with the 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize.** The 2021 shortlisted artists include: Monica Alcazar-Duarte, Andrew Leventis, Chris Combs, James Tapscott, Alice Duncan and Cesar & Lois Collective, Carlos David, Seb Agnew, Kitoko Diva, Christiane Zschommler, Henny Burnett, and Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard. David Brandy, Shan Wu, Cathryn Shilling, Dirk Hardy, Juliana Kasumu, Gabriel Hensche and Erwin Redl.
- **The 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition** runs 28 May - 28 September at York Art Gallery, UK.

FUTURE NOW

AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM



For press queries: contact Associate Editor, Kate Simpson, kate@aestheticamagazine.com
For queries related to the Aesthetica Art Prize: contact art-prize@aestheticamagazine.com