

UK

OFFSPRING – Pierre Huyghe

25.05-
30.10
2022



Kunsten

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The exhibition *Offspring* comprises six works, including, amongst others, an aquarium, a statue with a living beehive, a musical machine learning* that emits light and smoke, and humans with light mask playing at an unknown game. Presenting complex systems of diverse intelligent life forms—biotic and abiotic - the exhibition is generated by an unresolved conflict between determinate rules and unpredictable occurrences. Each work is visible by intermittence, each perceives their surrounding and communicate with others, using their own particularity, language or presence.

**Machine learning is a type of artificial intelligence system*

About the Artist:

Pierre Huyghe (b. 1962, France) has exhibited in numerous biennials and group exhibitions worldwide including Documenta 13 and in solo museum shows such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), LACMA (Los Angeles), the Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), Tate Modern (London), the Ludwig Museum (Cologne). Pierre Huyghe currently works between Santiago, New York, and Paris.

Attention



The works should not be touched!



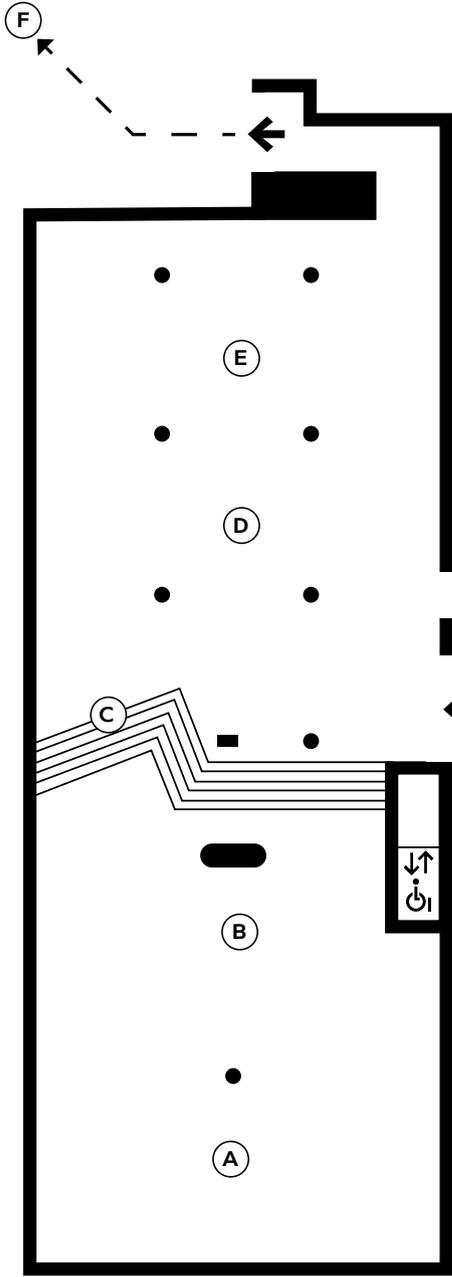
Parents should hold their children's hand



Pay attention to the stairs and free-standing glass in the darkness



Please note that one of the works extracts smoke



A. Zoodram 2 (2010/2021)
 Aquarium with living organisms



Pierre Huyghe’s aquariums have become an iconic part of his artistic practice. His first was created in 2009, with each variation thereafter a unique work. Neither reproductions of naturally-occurring ecosystems nor stage sets, they are rather worlds of constructed conditions in which uncertainties can unfold. For that purpose, animals are carefully selected for their instinctual behaviours, or abilities. These, repeated and varying over time, compose the dramaturgy of the aquarium’s environment. The monochromatic *Zoodram 2*, is home of diverse saltwater invertebrates such as peanut worm, brittle star, spider and horseshoe crab that cohabited with one longhorn cowfish.

This unique acquisition was made possible by a generous donation from New Carlsberg Foundation.

B. *A Way in Untilled* (2012)

HD video, sound. Duration: 14 min.



A Way in Untilled depicts Huyghe's environment created in the compost of Kassel's park, Germany. The once disregarded area of construction debris was transformed by adding other living organisms and inanimate objects. In this situation a fluorescent-painted female dog is seen weaning a puppy, a colony of bees obscures the head of a female nude statue and pollinates medicinal plants, an uprooted tree once planted by the late German artist Joseph Beuys is eaten by ants. What occurs is unpredictable and indifferent to human presence. Over time, elements, species and environments grow, modify, interact or collapse, creating new antagonisms, associations, hospitalities, and hostilities.

The camera captures this milieu and the unfolding events at a different scale, sometimes beyond human perception.

C. *Mating* (2015)

Performance, LED-masks, amber



Programmed LED masks carried by humans, amber dice with mating insects. Visit www.kunsten.dk to see when the work is activated with the human participants.

A dice carved from a piece of amber contains two mating insects caught at the moment of reproduction millions of years ago. A woman and a man wearing LED masks are playing with the dice. The patterns of flashes exchanged between the masks follow instinctive behaviours, sequences of bioluminescence that insects emit prior to copulation. The rules of their game are left undisclosed to us. Sometimes they are playing, sometimes only the dice and the two masks are presented.

Within the exhibition, the sequence of light patterns emitted by the masks change the switchable glass where the films *De-Extinction* and *A Way in Untilled* are projected, as well as the light of the aquarium.

D. *De-Extinction* (2014)

Film, color, stereo sound. Duration 12:38 min



Extinct species of plants and animals discovered in fossils, such as amber, have been preserved from the natural stages of decomposition. Using macro- and microscopic motion-control cameras, *De-Extinction* is a journey through an amber stone, portraying a situation frozen in time and a search of insects caught mating millions of years ago. Slow panning close-up shots confuse the sense of scale as its soundtrack relays the whirring sounds of the camera. By returning to the origins of the world, the work acts as a memory for organisms and challenges the notion of death as disappearance.

E. *Offspring* (2018)

Installation with light, sound, smoke



As Huyghe was initiating a journey to Antarctica (2006), he conceived an instrument that could translate the surrounding landscape into sound

synchronized with light and communicate with other species. Offspring is the descendant of that machine. A neural network learns the *Gymnopédies 1&3* (1888) by the French composer Erik Satie and plays infinite variations of his piano compositions. While creating its own, unpredictable music, the machine learns from its environment and external conditions, such as temperature, humidity, living movement, and biochemical variations, which influence the sound it generates.

OUTSIDE IN THE PARK:

F. *Untilled (Liegender Frauenakt)*, 2012

Concrete with beehive structure, wax, live bee colony



The head of a female statue is covered by a living beehive. The work is in constant formation. The beehive embodies a form of self-organization, it has informed concepts of emergent and collective intelligence and inspired such terms as hive mind. Evolving regardless of human presence or witness, the work refers to a self-generating system that addresses porosity and contingency.

Attention:

Kindly respect the living bees and the health of other visitors by maintaining the required distance from the statue and beehive. Direct contact may cause damage or injury to the bees, their hive, yourself or other visitors.

Opening hours

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am-9pm
Friday-Sunday: 10am-5pm

Open Mondays in week 42, during
Christmas, week 8, Monday after
Easter and Whitsunday
Closed on December 24, 25, 31
and January 1

The exhibition is supported by:

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STIFTET 20. MARTS 1942

Lektor Peer Rander Amundsens Legat

Zoodram 2 (2010)

Courtesy the artist / Kunsten Museum of Modern Art
Aalborg. Erhvervet med midler fra Ny Carlsberg-
fondet

Foto: Melissa Dubbin

Offspring (2018)

Courtesy the artist / PINAULT COLLECTION
Foto: Aurélien Mole

De-Extinction (2014)

Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, London
Foto: stilbillede fra De-Extinction

Mating (2015)

Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery
Foto: stilbillede fra De-Extinction

A Way in Untilled (2012)

Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery
Foto: stilbillede fra A Way in Untilled

Untilled (Liegender Frauenakt), 2012

Courtesy the artist / Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
Foto: stilbillede fra A Way in Untilled

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Kunsten.dk

Cover photo:

Mating, 2015

Courtesy the artist /

Marian Goodman Gallery

Photo: still from *De-Extinction*