

Biography

Elvin Flamingo

Elvin Flamingo (dr. Jarosław Czarnecki) – born in 1967 in Pelplin, Poland. A visual artist, lecturer at the Faculty of Sculpture and Intermedia of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. Associate Dean of Intermedia (2016-2019). His projects combine art, biology, and technology.

By far Elvin Flamingo's most important project is *The Symbiosis of Creation VOL.1*; begun in 2012, it is envisaged to continue until 2034. The work's point of departure is cultivation of exotic ants. It consists of three parts invoking the themes of destruction and re-creation. The respective elements of the work are as follows: *Reconstruction of Non-Human Culture*, *Kingdom of the Shared Quotidian* and *After Humans, the Biocorporation*.

The work was nominated for Poland's Prime Minister award for the arts. It was also the topic of Elvin Flamingo's doctoral thesis, defended in 2014.

The life and work of ants are recorded in the form of films, sound and web streaming. The inaudible sounds emitted by ants are amplified by Flamingo many times, e.g. via sensitive contact microphones. These sounds are often used during the artist's concerts, which have been held at the National Music Forum in Wrocław or at the Enter Enea Festival in Poznań. *The Simultaneous Hybrid of Musical Improvisation and Bioart (SHMIB)* as a visual and music project expands the idea of symbiosis. The music is based e.g. on sound, amplified a hundred times, originating in ants' stridulation organs, equivalent to human speech apparatus.

In 2016, Flamingo began the realisation of the project *We-The Common Body*, which premiered in 2017 at the National Gallery of Art in Sopot. At the core of the project lie the dependencies between the biological habitat, virtual reality (VR) and the light habitat. The project consists of three parts: *This View Has Potential*, *Vanitasity*, and *Virtual Phenotype* (inspired by the electric chair in which the viewer experiences a VR world). The virtual world

is equipped with digital sound synthesizers which generate sonic space using signals from the sensors placed in the first part. In 2017, *We-The Common Body* won the Grand Prix in Wrocław in 2017 at the WRO: *Draft Systems* Media Art Biennale.

Elvin Flamingo lives and works in Gdańsk. He is the founder of the *Intercollegiate Science Club BIO-MEDIA*. He is vegan.

Selected solo exhibitions:

2019 – *Implosion*, Immersive 3D Visualization Lab, Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics, Gdańsk University of Technology

2018 – *The Symbiosis of Creation - Reconstruction of Non-human Culture*, me Convention Conference, Stockholm, Sweden

2017-2020 – *The Symbiosis of Creation - Reconstruction of Non-human Culture*, Gdańsk University, The Faculty of Biology

2015 – *The Symbiosis of Creation*, Exhibition Research Lab, John Moores University, Liverpool, UK

2015 – *The Symbiosis of Creation*, Kunsthall Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark

Selected group exhibitions:

2019 – *NOMUS. Collection under construction*, National Museum in Gdańsk

2017 – WRO Media Art Biennale: *Draft Systems*, WRO Art Centre Wrocław

2016 – *The Simultaneous Hybrid of Musical Improvisation and Bioart*, Eco Expanded City, National Forum of Music, Wrocław

2016 – Gdańsk University, Faculty of Biotechnology

2015 – *Cultivated Cultures*, Natural Science Museum, Lviv, Ukraine

2015 – Media Art Biennale WRO: *Test Exposure*, WRO Art Centre, Wrocław

2014 – Art&Science Conversations seminar, Kassel, Germany

2014 – Mediation Biennale, Poznań

Selected conferences (speaker, moderator, organiser):

2018 - *BIO-MEDIA* Conference, Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk

2018 - *Art in the Era of Artificial Intelligence*, Goethe-Institut, Warsaw

2015 - *Between Genres* TEDx Conference, Pomeranian Park of Science and Technology, Gdynia

Selected awards and distinctions:

2018 – Invitation for the Competition for Polish Pavilion of Venice Biennale 2019

2017 – Grand Prix at the Media Art Biennale WRO: *Draft Systems*

2016 – Grand Prix at the 2nd Triennale of Pomeranian Art in Sopot

2016 – COLLIDE Shortlist, Arts@CERN (nomination)

2015 – Critic's Award at the Media Art Biennale WRO: *Test Exposure*

2015 – Scholarship of the Ministry of Culture

2013 – Scholarship of the Ministry of Science

2012 – Grand Prix at the Art Biennale in Gdańsk

2009 – Gold Remi at the 42nd Worldfest Houston Film Festival, Texas, USA

Selected articles, reviews, publications:

2019 – *Ants and mushrooms at the work of Elvin Flamingo „The Symbiosis of Creation”*. *Disaster considerations*

2019 – Postmedium, *Bipolar disorder - The language of stray bodies: Prologue. A Memoir and Medical History*

2016 – Artoon, *Domination / Affirmation*. „*Symbiosis of Creation*”

2016 – Polityka, *Elvin Flamingo: artist performing with ants*

2016 – Czas Kultury, *Collision of art and the ants*

2016 – Czas Kultury, *Non-antagonistic interactions*

2016 – Sztuka i Dokumentacja, *Project „The Symbiosis of Creation” in the light of the theory of paraartistic values*

2015 – Art+Science Meeting, *Immersed in the process*. „*Symbiosis of Creation*”

2015 – *Biopower and Bioactivism. Art in the Age of Posthumanism*

2014 – Art+Science Meeting, *Towards the Posthuman?*