

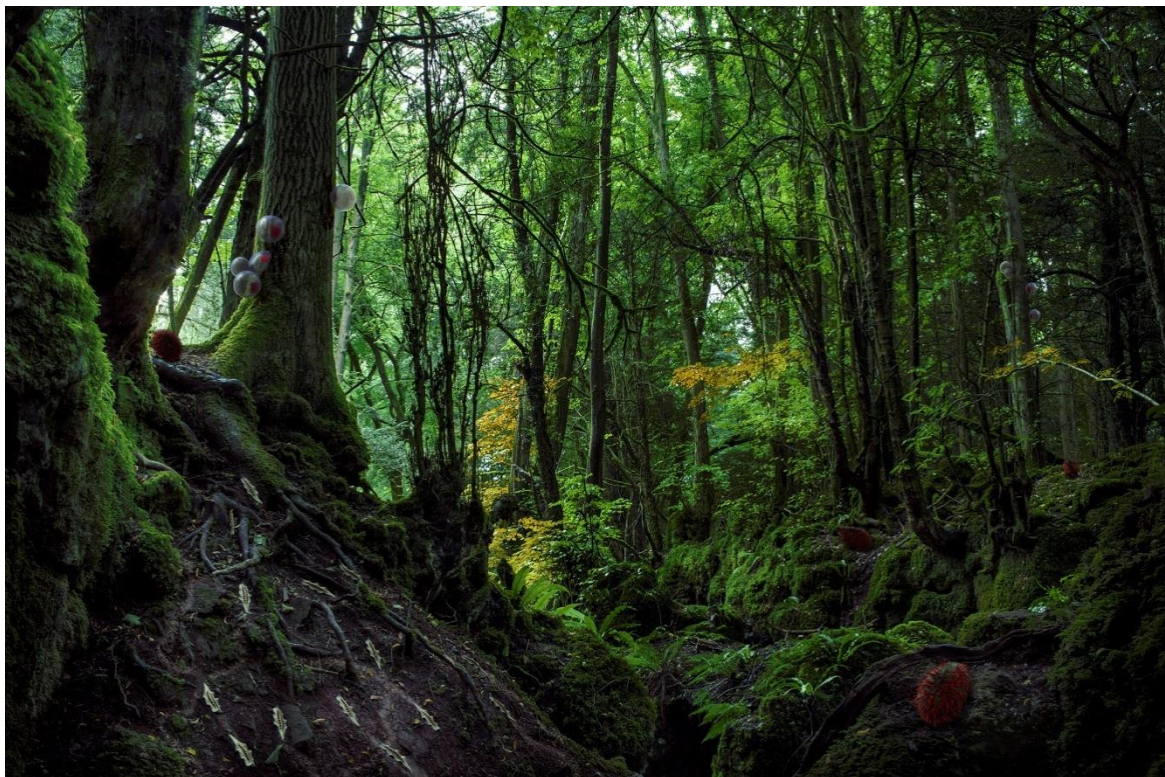
PRESS RELEASE, January 30, 2020

## Survival of the Fittest. Nature and High Tech in Contemporary Art

February 29 – May 24, 2020 | Kunstpalais Erlangen, Marktplatz 1, 91054 Erlangen

**Press conference and guided tour** | Thursday, February 27, 11 AM

**Opening** | Friday, February 28, 7 PM | with a performance of „AUSSAAT“, a collaboration between Andreas Greiner and composer Páll Ragnar Pálson



Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg, *Designing for the Sixth Extinction*, 2013-15, Courtesy of the artist.

The current discourse on where humankind is heading is increasingly dominated by the danger that environmental destruction in general and climate change in particular pose for the survival of the species. Global political movements gave the issue a new level of urgency by emphasizing the need for an instant ecological paradigm shift at all levels of society. The role that technology can play in the future is being debated controversially.

From Artificial Intelligence (AI) to blockchain technology, big data and bioengineering – while optimists praise technological innovation as the key to preserving our habitat, skeptics warn about a naive hope that is fueled by an increased lack of understanding of technology. In a flood of contradictory information it becomes harder and harder to objectively evaluate the current state of the world. Caught in a doomsday atmosphere, feelings swing between euphoria and impotence,

departure and demise, decadence and “Weltschmerz”. The international group show features 10 artists that work on the boundaries between nature and high technology and approach their multifaceted relations through photography, computer simulation, video, installations and performances.

For instance, **Anna Dumitriu & Alex May**’s *ArchaeaBot* presents the ,ultimate‘, post climate change and post singularity underwater species. In *Asunder*, a work by the trio of artists and engineers **Tega Brain, Julian Oliver & Bengt Sjölen**, a supercomputer analyzes various data of terrestrial regions, generating radical environmental plans as “solutions” to our climate challenges. **James Bridle**, artist and author of the book *New Dark Age* (2018), displays *Cloud Index*, a system that correlates voting results with the weather in order to produce actionable political forecasts.

The exhibition looks at our relation to planet earth and how to shape it in the future – from deconstructive critical perspectives to optimistic views towards the future or fantastic visions of the re-enchantment of nature.

**Participating artists:** Christina Agapakis (US) & Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg (UK) & Sissel Tolaas (NO), Tega Brain (AU) & Julian Oliver (NZ) & Bengt Sjölen (SE), James Bridle (UK), Simon Denny (NZ), Anna Dumitriu (UK) & Alex May (UK), Futurefarmers (International, Andreas Greiner (DE), Paul Seidler (DE) & Paul Kolling (DE) & Max Hampshire (UK), Jonas Staal (NL), und Pinar Yoldas (TR)

### **Exhibition program**

The exhibition program engages with the topic of climate change and technology in a broader social context. The Kunstpalais Erlangen is organizing an interdisciplinary symposium from March 15 to 16, 2020, with renowned, international participants from various research fields of climate change, environmentalism, and technology. Participants are, among others, **Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Reichle** (media theory, University of Applied Arts Vienna), **Prof. Dr. Joachim Fensterle** (professor for biotechnology/bioengineering, Scientists for Future) and **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kießling** (paleobiologist and among the scientists for the world climate report 2022). In the context of the exhibition, the Kunstpalais is also critically reflecting on its own working infrastructure, looking at ways of improving the environmental footprint of cultural institutions and creating sustainable workplaces in the city.

The exhibition is supported by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (Federal Cultural Foundation).

## Information

Kunstpalais  
Stadt Erlangen  
Palais Stutterheim  
Marktplatz 1  
91054 Erlangen

Tue–Su 10 AM – 6 PM  
[www.kunstpalais.de](http://www.kunstpalais.de)

Blog: [www.kunstpalais.wordpress.com](http://www.kunstpalais.wordpress.com)  
Instagram: @kunstpalais  
Facebook: Kunstpalais Erlangen  
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