

Transformation Digital Art 2026

Day One

Thursday, 26 March

Curators & Moderators

Gaby Wijers – Director, LI-MA

Gaby Wijers is founder and director of LI-MA. With a background in information management, theatre, and informatics, she has initiated, advised, and participated in numerous national and international projects on documenting, preserving, and providing access to immaterial and interactive art. She is active in networks such as the Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art (SBHK), the Dutch Digital Heritage Network (NDE), and the Network Archives Design and Digital Culture (NADD). She is a guest lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and honorary research fellow at the University of Exeter.

Annet Dekker – Researcher & Curator, University of Amsterdam

Annet Dekker is a curator and researcher. She is currently Associate Professor in Comparative Cultural Analysis and Coordinator of the Dual Master Archival and Information Studies at the University of Amsterdam, and Visiting Professor and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of the Networked Image at London South Bank University. She has published numerous essays and edited volumes, including *Documentation as Art* (co-edited with Gabriella Giannachi, Routledge 2022) and *Curating Digital Art: From Presenting and Collecting Digital Art to Networked Co-Curating* (Valiz 2021).

Speakers

Sarah Friend – Artist

Sarah Friend is an artist, researcher, and software developer based in Berlin. She has worked as a Creative Resident at IDEO and as a researcher at Summer of Protocols, exploring the afterlives of digital platforms and systems. Her writings have appeared in *Texte zur Kunst*, *Outland*, *Spike Art Magazine*, and *Coindesk*.

Talk: Good Death

This presentation examines the desire for digital permanence, from the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to the GitHub Arctic Code Vault and permissionless networks. Rather than seeking perfect preservation, it considers the lifecycle of digital worlds and how acceptance of digital mortality can shape archival and memory practices.

Kelani Nichole – Founder, TRANSFER

Kelani Nichole is a technologist and founder of TRANSFER, an experimental media art space. Since 2013, she has created immersive installations and virtual worlds, with projects shown at Haus der Elektronischen Künste, Thoma Foundation, Arebyte, Pioneer Works, and Pérez Art Museum Miami. As a visiting scholar at NYU Tandon Integrated Design and Media, she develops the TRANSFER Data Trust.

Panel: Cutting-Edge Methods and Practices of (Online) Sharing and Preserving (Digital) Art

TRANSFER Data Trust is a decentralised, artist-owned archive supporting cooperative preservation and cultural value exchange. It leverages decentralised storage and encryption to maintain artworks across generations, offering a new model for media art conservation, governance, and valuation grounded in community care.

Tereza Havlíková – Art Historian/Curator, Zentrum für Netzkunst / Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Tereza Havlíková researches net and digital art within broader internet history and culture. She co-founded Berlin's Zentrum für Netzkunst, focusing on reconstructing, archiving, and presenting early net art, and has been a research assistant at Ruhr University Bochum since 2024.

Talk: Zentrum für Netzkunst – Inserting Net Art

This presentation explores approaches to preserving and narrating net art histories. Selected projects highlight the balance between establishing shared standards and embracing individual artworks' uniqueness, emphasising Berlin's networked context.

Sakrowski – Curator, Zentrum für Netzkunst

Sakrowski has been an art historian and curator with a focus on net art since 1999. He has worked on research projects at Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, curated *transmediale*, and manages *panke.gallery* and */rosa* project space with ZfN.

Talk: Zentrum für Netzkunst – Inserting Net Art

Sakrowski presents the initiative's methods for preserving, archiving, and presenting net art, emphasising community-led, multi-generational narratives and the interplay between standardisation and individual artistic contexts.

Ronny Heiremans – Artist, Jubilee

Together with Katleen Vermeir, Ronny Heiremans has worked as the artist duo Vermeir & Heiremans since 2006. Their practice approaches the art world as a microcosm of broader societal dynamics, using financial instruments, historical references, and performative methods to explore redistribution of value and new forms of mutualisation. They co-founded Jubilee, a Brussels-based platform for artistic research supporting

members' practices while collectively addressing the conditions of artistic production.

Title: Eavatea, Archipelagos of Artistic Practices

Developed by Jubilee in collaboration with partner organisations, Eavatea is an evolving digital infrastructure conceived as a living artistic form. Designed to generate encounters, conversations, and unexpected narratives, it functions as a shared archive where artists can reactivate their own research while engaging with the documents, images, and sounds of others. This presentation focuses on Eavatea's collective ownership model as a relational infrastructure: an agora that fosters new ways of initiating, sharing, and sustaining collective artistic research.

Brian Castriota – Lecturer, UCL

Brian Castriota is Lecturer in Conservation of Contemporary Art and Media at UCL, Time-Based Media Conservator at National Galleries Scotland, and freelance conservator at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. His research explores posthumanist and postqualitative frameworks for conservation as a practice of care.

Hélia Marçal – Associate Professor, UCL

Hélia Marçal researches feminist new materialisms, activist artworks, time-based media, and contemporary art conservation, examining how materiality intersects with museum, heritage, and care practices.

Talk: Refusal as Care Under Techno-Colonial Hegemony

This presentation investigates refusal as an ethical site of care in conservation, digital preservation, and collections management. It positions refusal as a method for challenging techno-colonial infrastructures, using documentation, language, and AI as tools for resistance.

Flaminia Fortunato – Time-Based Media Conservator, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Flaminia Fortunato is a conservator focused on collaborative, cross-disciplinary approaches in time-based media art, leading initiatives for computer-based collections and early hybrid light-computer works.

Chiara Borgonovo – Researcher, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele

Chiara Borgonovo researches contemporary art history with a focus on time-based media, curatorial, conservation, and archival practices.

Title: Conversation on Conservation

Fortunato and Borgonovo present methodologies for time-based media conservation, emphasising trust, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. The conversation explores empathy's role in transferring tacit knowledge and sustaining care practices,

highlighting trust, relationality, and empathy as central to sustaining time-based media care.

Inge Hinterwaldner – Professor, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Inge Hinterwaldner is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art, researching computer-based art. She co-curated *Choose Your Filter! Browser Art Since the Beginnings of the World Wide Web* at ZKM and leads the ERC project “Coded Secrets,” focusing on net-based artworks.

Talk: Codes of (In)formal Preservation

Hinterwaldner and Annet Dekker explore preservation and presentation strategies for net-based artworks, emphasising research and curatorial approaches.

Aga Wielocha – Conservator/Researcher, Independent / Hochschule der Künste Bern

Aga Wielocha specialises in contemporary art preservation, exploring ownership, guardianship, and commons. She is a postdoctoral researcher at Bern Academy of the Arts.

Talk: Beyond the Work: Accessible Repository of Processes and Practices

The talk examines strategies for preserving processual and technology-dependent artworks, including digital-born materials, while ensuring secure access and equitable relationships between artists and institutions.

Patrícia Falcão – Time-Based Media Conservator / EMBARK Vice-Chair, Tate

Patrícia Falcão develops conservation strategies for software- and web-based artworks.

Talk: The EMBARK Network

Falcão introduces EMBARK, a pan-European network connecting researchers, conservators, and technologists to safeguard media art collections for future generations.

Esther Moñivas Mayor – Professor/Researcher, Complutense University of Madrid

Esther Moñivas Mayor researches media art history and variable media conservation, emphasising transmaterialities and relational dimensions between art, science, and technology.

Paula Fernández Valdés – Assistant Archivist, Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute

Paula Fernández Valdés is a media art conservator and researcher with experience in archiving, knowledge frameworks, and born-digital art.

Talk: SafeARTECH Research Project

Moñivas Mayor and Fernández Valdés present SafeARTECH's methodologies for preserving experimental digital art. The project examines artistic practices mediated by

emerging technologies in Spain over the past four decades and establishes an inclusive platform for knowledge exchange among researchers, professionals, and citizens.

Jonas Lund – Artist

Jonas Lund creates paintings, sculpture, photography, websites, and performances that critically reflect on contemporary networked systems and power structures.

Talk: Network Maintenance

Network Maintenance is a series of networked wall-mounted interfaces that explore the relationship between ownership, care, and collective responsibility. Each piece consists of a minimalist custom construction housing a display and various analog controls, functioning as nodes in an interconnected system where each owner's engagement influences the entire network.

Joost Dofferhoff – Registrar & Assistant Conservator, LI-MA

Joost Dofferhoff is the registrar and assistant conservator at LI-MA (Living Media Art) in Amsterdam. An alumnus of the Preservation and Presentation of the Moving Image master at the University of Amsterdam, he works on linked-open data and data modelling with media art collections.

Mauricio van der Maesen de Sombreff – Freelance Engineer & Artist, LI-MA

Mauricio van der Maesen de Sombreff is a professional at the intersection of technology and creativity. With a background in telecommunications engineering and software development, he also studied fine arts and design at the Dogtime programme of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy.

Workshop: Preserving Digital Art Despite External Influences

The workshop explores the impact of commercial platforms on software-based and net art, offering hands-on strategies for analysing and preserving digital artworks.

Constant Dullaart – Artist / Director Distant.Gallery / Professor, AdBK Nürnberg

Constant Dullaart's practice explores how social and cultural values reverberate through tools and technology. He creates works emphasising the friction between old and new, manual and automated, online and offline, real and virtual.

Fabian Hampel – Artist, AdBK Nürnberg

Fabian Hampel engages with contemporary technologies, exploring linear, reflexive forms as well as abstract borderlands. His work often asks provocative questions – for example, what if an AI had a seizure? – and takes the form of essayistic video works examining algorithmic critique and alternative perspectives on technology.

Workshop: ROTBOTS/CONTENTMACHINES

In an era flooded with algorithmic content, this hands-on workshop inverts the typical relationship between artists and AI platforms. Rather than passively consuming services, participants learn to critically construct a collective automated content generation pipeline. Over two intensive sessions, they daisy-chain multiple AI tools to scrape data, generate text with large language models, produce video and audio, edit footage, add subtitles, and output platform-ready content. Contributions from all participants integrate into a shared, continuous content stream: a “brainrot content-generating machine”. Participants gain deep insight into the mechanics, logic, and biases of algorithmic content production, moving beyond surface-level tool usage to critically understand the possibilities and constraints of platform-based media creation.