On the 19th of February, the first and second year iArts students took part in the ‘Studio Week’. The iArts Studio Week is somewhat of a tradition at iArts; students are offered a budget with which they have the choice to spend it on an educational program that they decide themselves. For this studio week, the students decided to create educational, creative and dynamic workshops, coached mainly by the students themselves. With exception of some guest workshop leaders, students planned a variety of workshops, tie-dye, scrapbooking, mindfulness lessons to name some. The workshops took place in a group accommodation in Ondereschey, Noorbeek, courtesy of Merel van Neerbos, one of the students’ mother. It was an ideal place for crafting, cooking, singing, dancing, working and team-building together! On Wednesday, the students invited iArts teachers to a night of dinner and drinks, short stories, music and visual works they have been occupied with along the week. The students would like to thank Merel van Neerbos, Nicholas Kars, and Nina Frings for making the week even more special with their workshops and good vibes!

Written by Holly Hudson Taylor & Konstantina Katsikari
1st and 2nd year students

Photo courtesy: Tessa Frings
On the 18th and 19th of March, four first year iArts students will present an installation at the AINSI Maastricht. Under the guidance of artist Nina Willems they have created an interactive installation called ‘The Sexcircuit’ as an addition to the performance ‘69 Positions’ by choreographer and dancer Mette Ingvartsen. The bodycircuit/ sexcircuit is an interactive installation that uses male and female bodies to make an electric circuit. Electric circuits always have a (+) and (-) side; for the installation the audience will be invited to choose either (+) or (-) depending on the gender they associate with (men = - and women = +). The combination of both energies will result in creating a (sexual) circuit which will be portrayed in the form of a projection. The shape of a circle (O) will appear on the projection if the positive (+) and negative (-) circuit are being triggered on the circuit. In the case that two negative poles (-) (-) or two positive poles (+) (+) are triggered, a different shape will appear, the shape of an infinity symbol (∞). In the end, all the shapes that are triggered by any sequence (+)(-) / (+)(+) / (-)(-) the “sexual poles” will create a shape that is equal, whole and never ending. Read more here.

Written by Holly Hudson Taylor
1st year iArts student

Neophilus

Last week I had the opportunity to perform a small excerpt of my third year graduation work as part of the surplus programme for Blackwhite game, by iArts staff member, Marie Van Vollenhoven. This year I have delved into the world of computer science and media theory. This 15-minute performance for the surplus came out of my experiments with imbuing a computer with human-like features and interactions.

For this performance, I utilized different types of software with a focus on linking them together to measure various different influences. For example, the brightness and sound were picked up by the computer’s webcam. In this way, the computer became a sort of anthropomorphic entity in itself. There was an unsettled interdependency between myself as the performer and the computer. I hoped to incite the audience to question whether we are controlling our technology or being controlled by it.

Written by Abel Enklaar
3rd year iArts student
**Why did you choose to join iArts?**

I chose to join iArts because of its study structure; mainly project-based learning and the focus being on the process instead of being entirely on the assessment. I think this encourages us as students to grow and develop further. Also, I really like the fact that iArts does not have ‘traditional’ teachers, but rather people who are experts in different artistic and interdisciplinary fields.

**What do you enjoy about iArts?**

Out-of-the-box projects and courses that one really wouldn’t expect to get. Also, I enjoy the fact that the content we receive is so diverse, I think it’s really helpful for people who have to figure out what they like and dislike, what they’re good at and what they need to improve upon. For example, I really enjoyed viewpoint lessons, a type of theatre training that acts as a medium for thinking about and acting upon movement, gesture and creative space. I know I would have never taken if it weren’t for iArts.

**What has been your most exciting moment in iArts so far?**

When I went out of my comfort zone. For example, in the Arts & Society block, we had the topic about poverty, going out in the streets, experiencing real life situations. This stretched my comfort zone, and I felt like I grew as a person. I also enjoyed the iArts Studio Week, where we could create and lead projects and workshops by ourselves, and focus on decisions on how to improve without teacher intervention.

Interviewed by Bo Oudendijk
2nd year iArts student
"I want to show my beauty, to my own standards. I want to be exposed, without disrespect. I want to wear whatever I want to wear. Power with attraction. A feminist with sensuality. I want to be Pretty Exposed."

Women are more naked than ever before. During the last century the amount of fabrics concealing the female body have become less and less, as a result of political and sexual emancipation. Nowadays, female nakedness in clothing is not only used as a tool for power, but also as a tool for the consumer industry; sex sells. While women are constantly being judged on their appearance, nakedness through clothes appears in a double standard. How can women find the balance between being sexy and empowered?

Traveling to the most naked sceneries I could think of - the night scene of Amsterdam and Rio de Janeiro - I discovered my personal vision on contemporary femininity: sexy and empowered. Together with two fashion designers and in collaboration with Fashion-Clash Maastricht, I am translating this vision into a future nightlife clothing collection. Transmission into an interactive performance with live models, my project ‘Pretty Exposed’ aims to create an engulfing nightlife experience. This will be shown during Fashionclash, 30 June and 1 and 2 July 2017.

What fascinated me since the beginning of my studies at iArts was the broadening of perspective and knowledge about what it means to create art. This process I am now translating into my final project. It carries the name Klangkörperkultur (it translates into the culture of a resonant body). This project explores the transcending of physical boundaries of the body and mind, by merging with digital media in relation to and through sound. The pursuit of a new philosophy of sound perception and creation that is relevant to the digital nature of the 21st century is the undercurrent of this research. In order to translate my concept into form, I am in the process of creating an audio-visual installation wherein the audience takes the position of a co-creator. By harnessing electrical impulses of his/her brain via Electroencephalography (EEG) scanners, they are able to influence the sound and the visuals.
HAPPENING NOW

Year 1: Imagine the Brain, Imagining Human

The second and last semester of the school year has just begun. This semester has the overarching theme “Insider/Outsider”. In the Arts & Culture block, which starts now, the first year students will explore this theme alongside the topic “Imagine the Brain, Imagining Human”, mentored by visual artist Juul Sadée. To familiarize themselves with the subject matter, the students will receive lectures from philosopher Laurens Landeweerd and linguist Bert Weltens. They will also visit Museum Guislain in Ghent, which is located in a former psychiatric hospital. Based on their time there, they will develop an individual multi-media artwork. These artworks are going to be presented on the 12th of April at Intro in Situ from 19:30 - 22:00. We hope to see you there!

Written by Els van Raaij
1st year iArts student

Year 2: Understanding culture, Internship in Ghent, Insider/Outsider

For the next two months, 2nd year students will be collaborating with the Experimental Intermedia House, artist residency in Ghent, Belgium, and the Viewmaster projects in Maastricht, to understand the human habitat, the different aspects of culture and the meaning of being an outsider or insider. The first part of the block will be dedicated to the internship in Belgium. From March 14th until March 28th, the students will be working in Ghent, building a window exhibition that will result to the research ‘what is culture, how did it begin?’, investigating the depth of cultural heritage. The opening reception is Friday 24th of March, between 17:00 and 22:00 hours. The students will also be present during the weekend of 25th and 26th of March. The aim of this project is to make ourselves understand the roots of culture, become aware of the existence of multiple hidden cultures, and ultimately realize what the value of an outsider or an insider is within a societal, artistic and cultural context. For more information regarding the opening, consult the flyer here.

Written by Konstantina Katsikari
2nd year iArts student

Photo courtesy: Konstantina Katsikari

Photo courtesy: Bo Oudendijk
During the months of April and May 2017, iArts second year students will have the chance to work with the organization team of the Athens Digital Arts Festival 2017. As interns, the students will take the roles of co-curators and production team members for the set-up and execution of the 3-day festival. This internship will help the students integrate the skills and knowledge they have into real-life production work, while also learning the perks of big, international productions. From conceptual and creative thinking to practical details like budget and space installation, they will be part of something big and exciting, an unforgettable experience!

The festival will take place May 18th- May 21st, 2017, in Athens, Greece.
If you wish to find out more, check their website: www.adaf.gr.

Written by Konstantina Katsikari
2nd year iArts student

On Thursday 16th and Friday 17th of March, Zuyd Hogeschool is hosting an event called “the Loop”. This is an event designed to allow people to experience the technical innovation happening in the sectors of hospitality, business & communication and the arts. This year’s theme is the “next step in international cooperation, education & experience”, which will be expressed through talks and workshops spread throughout the 3 faculties of Zuyd Hogeschool in Maastricht. During this year’s edition, Bo Oudendijk, a 2nd year iArts student, will present a video installation made for a previous iArts project. The work reveals a future scenario of the technological uprise in 3D bioprinting. In the video, the student himself is selling a prototype of 3D printer that produces bioprinted skin using tell-sell. Overall this year’s theme and Bo’s approach to the topic to the subject of technological innovation reflect the need to cooperate with new technology for a better understanding of the future. For more information about the event, visit their website: https://theloop.zuydevents.nl/237600.

Written by Bo Oudendijk
2nd year iArts student
CULTURAL TIPS

Samar Yazbek - A Woman in the Crossfire of Syria

Friday, 17 March 2017
Doors open 19:00
Event starts 19:30 (until 21:30)
The InnBetween Maastricht
Address: Capucijnenstraat 122, Maastricht

An evening of memories, experiences, stories. Story-Line is back, this time with storytellers that bring impactful tales from Syria, like in the case of Samar Yazbek, a renowned writer and journalist living under the Assad regime.

As Story-Line quotes, “The evening is part of the (Un)seen worlds, a series of Story-Line events on countries with remarkable stories but limited freedom of speech”.

For ticket information and other details, visit story-line.org or email info@story-line.org.

MUSEUM DR. GUISLAIN

Another World

Laboratory of Illusion and Fantasy
22.10.16 - 28.05.17
In collaboration with: Gustav Mesmer Stiftung / Museum Dr Guislain

“Where lies the boundary between fantasy and reality? How can we distinguish dream from delirium, illusion from wish, hallucination from discernment? How can we explore or imagine what takes place elsewhere? The exhibition covers two centuries, starting from the many questions concerning psychosis, hallucination and illusion. Not to give a classic historic account, but to elucidate five unique oeuvres from this period that balance between art, knowledge and science. J.J. Grandville, Gustav Mesmer, Gerard Heymans, Jean Perdrizet and Mathew Kneebone each created or mapped out a different universe, thus trying to grasp the ungraspable in their own way. Another World creates passages: from this one to the other, between the other worlds among themselves, and perhaps also from the other world back to this one.” For more information read more here.

In collaboration with: Faculty of Arts Maastricht / Zuyd University of Applied Sciences

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