

HACKING HABITAT

ART OF CONTROL — 26.02–06.06.2016

Press Release // February 2016

UTRECHT (NL) – HACKING HABITAT. ART OF CONTROL is a large-scale, international exhibition on the cutting edge of art, technology and social change that will open on February 26th, 2016. More than 80 internationally acclaimed artists and designers will exhibit new and existing work in the former prison at Utrecht Wolvenplein, Netherlands. With Forensic Architecture (UK), Melanie Bonajo (NL), James Bridle (UK), Felix Burger (DE), Cristina Lucas (ES), Centre for Political Beauty (DE), Johan Grimmonprez (BE), Susan Hiller (USA), Samson Kambalu (MW), William Kentridge (SA), Laura Kurgan (USA), Metahaven (NL), Pedro Reyes (MX), Stanza (GB), Fernando Sanchez Castillo (ES), and many others.

Prison is a metaphor for the way in which technology, politics and economic systems hold us in their grip. A prison is the perfect environment for experiencing a heightened sense of digital captivity. What if our smartphones turn out to be the new panopticum? HACKING HABITAT as exhibition takes the visitor along in dizzying *science fiction real time*. It makes control palpable and displays the power of resistance where artists take the lead. Playfully, they reconquer their life world. They *hack* their *habitat*, creating space for awareness, debate and renewal.

HACKING HABITAT interweaves two story lines: that of a globally encroaching technocracy and that of the opposing power that organizes itself in response. The story is not one of good versus evil, but instead poses the question of how we can find a balance between technology and humanity. To answer this question the organization has collected responses from people under the motto: how can we keep life in the future livable? Artworks commissioned for the exhibition follow the principle 'disconnect to reconnect': how to restore the relationship between human and machine?

While HACKING HABITAT has a high-tech thrust, it features a range of art forms: theater, film, visual arts, installations, sound artwork, as well as interactive games and DIY workshops. All works have the same high quality demonstrated in earlier art exhibitions produced by the *Niet Normaal* Foundation, such as *Niet Normaal* (Amsterdam, 2009/10) and *Ja Natuurlijk* (The Hague, 2013). These unique and topical exhibitions of biennale scale drew large and diverse audiences.

The art

HACKING HABITAT displays work of young artists such as [Felix Burger](#), [Melanie Bonajo](#), [Samson Kambalu](#) and [James Bridle](#) in combination with various large installations by established artists, such as *Refusal of Time* by [William Kentridge](#), *Die Gedanken sind Frei* by [Susan Hiller](#) and *Nemesis* by [Stanza](#), a complete miniature city with accompanying current data flow of smart city London. Most of the [artists](#) are presenting new work.

Exploring Future Europe – April 26, 2016

In connection with the European Presidency of the Netherlands in 2016, MEP Agnes Jongerius presents Hacking Habitat on behalf of the Municipality and the University of Utrecht in Brussels.

Practical information for visitors

Location:	Wolvenplein, 3512 CK Utrecht
Opening times exhibition:	Wed thru Sun, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Other activities :	See program offerings on our website
Tickets:	online adults € 12,50 / at the door € 15,- online students € 9,- / at the door € 10,- online CJP € 6,- / at the door € 7,50 groups of 10 people or more € 8,- per person (apply online) children thru age 12 <u>free</u>
Publication	online in Dutch € 19,90 / English, in print, € 29,90 date of publication February 12, 2016. Ordering via website.
Information and contact:	www.hackinghabitat.com

For editors

For additional information, images or to meet one of the artists or artistic director Ine Gevers, please contact our communication department: Evelien Kroese, 06-16034150, evelien@hackinghabitat.com
Please find [here](#) a selection of images.

Invitation Press Conference, February 25, 2016, 12.30 am - 3 pm

On Thursday, February 25th from 12.30 am – 3 pm we organize a press conference and preview of the exhibition in the presence of various artists. The official language is English.

VIP-opening, February 25, 4-6 pm

The press conference will be followed by the special opening for partners at 4 – 6 pm with special guests including Brigitta Jonsdottir (ISL), poet, known for Wikileaks and chairman of the Pirate Party of Iceland, Katerina Gregos (GR), artistic director of Art Brussels and Jonas Staal (NL), artist and initiator of 'The World Summit'. The official language is English.

If you are interested in attending the press conference and /or the VIP-opening, send an email to zonne@hackinghabitat.com with your name, contact details and medium.

Invitation concert Holly Herndon - February 25, 9–11 pm

In the evening you're invited to attend a concert by electronic musician Holly Herndon (USA). Herndon's second album Platform was released in 2015 and well received by both public and critics. In her texts she exposes us to the dark side of the information society and its implications for our privacy. One of her lines on social media and the internet: "I know you know me better than I know me." Her concert in TivoliVredenburg came about through collaboration with Residences in Utrecht. See also: www.tivolivredenburg.nl and www.residentiesinutrecht.nl.

TEDx Utrecht

TEDx lecture given by artistic director Ine Gevers about background and making of HACKING HABITAT. More information: <http://tedxutrecht.com/>

Artists

Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Paul Alberts, Halil Altindere, Timo Arnall, Gijs Assmann, Bertille Bak, Aram Bartholl, Eduardo Basualdo, James Beckett, Neil Beloufa, Filip Berte, Joseph Beuys, Melanie Bonajo, James Bridle, Matthijs de Bruijne, Buro Janssen & Jansen, Felix Burger, Daya Cahen, Centre for Political Beauty, Jeremy Deller, Paul Devens, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Martijn Engelbregt, Harun Farocki, Claire Fontaine, Forensic Architecture, Zachary Formwalt, Foundland, Front 404, Kendell Geers, Marco Godoy, David Goldblatt, Johan Grimontprez, Gottfried Haider, Nicoline van Harskamp, Femke Herregraven, Lino Hellings, Susan Hiller, Tehching Hsieh, Binelde Hyrcan, Alfredo Jaar, Jeroen Jongeleen, Juice Rap News, Samson Kambalu, Ali Kazma, Daniel Keller, William Kentridge, Frank Koolen, Laura Kurgan, Thomas Kuijpers, Gebroeders van Leeuwen, Cristina Lucas, Hans van Lunteren/Ienke Kastelein, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Angelica Mesiti, Metahaven, Molleindustria, Danaë Moons, Kianoosh Motallebi, Everlyn Nicodemus, Navid Nuur, Christian Nyampeta, Ahmet Ögüt, Ronald Ophuis, Charles van Otterdijk, Ansh Patel, Ruben Pater, Claire Pentecost, Pedro Reyes, Renée Ridgway, Evan Roth, Fernando Sanchez Castillo, Setup, Maarten Schuurman, Paul Segers, Andres Serrano, Stanza, Pilvi Takala, Moniek Toebosch, Stefanos Tsivopoulos, Merlijn Twaalfhoven, Dries Verhoeven, Roy Villevoeye, Antoine Viviani, Luuk Wilmering.

HACKING HABITAT thanks the following partners and sponsors:

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