CALL FOR CREATIVE EXHIBITION SUBMISSIONS

The ICIDS 2020 Art Exhibition opens its call for interactive digital artworks that explore this year’s curatorial theme Texts of Discomfort. The guideline for art works follows Barthes’s concept Text of Bliss, “the text that imposes a state of loss, the text that discomforts… unsettles the reader’s historical, cultural, psychological assumptions” (Barthes 1973, p12). Interactive digital art works that generate discomfort through their form and/or their content may actually inspire radical changes in the way we perceive the world.

Regarding the form, there has been plentiful discussion and debate around the joys and pains of digital, interactive non-linear storytelling. Many theorists, for example Janet Murray, have argued that digital interactivity offers THE way forward in terms of providing a more true depiction of the human experience of life through narrative. But many, for example Sven Birkerts, have also argued that interactivity simply breaks the imaginative ‘spell’ for the reader and destroys the sense of absorption that is desired. We wonder, where has the art reached in terms of its ability to give real narrative pleasure while being disruptive and discomforting?

At the same time, unsettling artworks are needed in a world that is living highly uncomfortable and complex times. We just need to look back to 2019: the Amazon rainforest and the Australian forests burned for weeks, children were absent from classrooms to beg world leaders for a planet to live in; women of the world joined under a unique song in a cry to stop femicide and fight for a more equitable world for diversity; people protested in Latin America, France, Hong Kong. A shared feeling of anxiety and grief expands through media.

Submitting artists are encouraged to mix technologies, narratives, points of view, to create interactive digital artworks that unsettle interactors’ assumptions by tackling the world’s global issues; and/or to create artworks that bring to a crisis interactors’ relation with language, that innovate in their way to intertwine narrative and technology. We invite artists to explore the following questions:

- Is Barthes’s challenging text of bliss an intellectual’s peccadillo, or a truly enjoyable experience for the reader/viewer/player? Does narrative have to be simple and emotionally unengaging, if the interactivity is sophisticated?
- How can interactive digital artworks bring awareness and change regarding global issues? How are interactive digital narratives depicting/challenging the complex times we are living in? Can uncomfortable immersive technologies “save” landscapes that may disappear during the next century (glaciers, forests, archeological sites)?

This year will take place at the Hilton Hotel of Bournemouth, UK, in conjunction with ICIDS 2020 conference. The exhibition runs from 4-6 November, with the opening taking place on November 4th (GMT).

**Submissions**

*Note regarding COVID19 and changes to submission requirements*

Because of the possibility that the art exhibition will need to be presented online we have made some changes to our call for submissions to ensure that if needs be works may be demonstrated online as part of a virtual exhibition if the need arises.

Artworks can include, but are not limited to:

- AR, MR and VR works
- Computer games
- Interactive installations *(that can if needs be demonstrated online via video)*
- Mobile and location-based works *(that can be demonstrated online via video)*
- Screen-based computational works
- Web-based works
- Webdocs and interactive films
- Transmedia works

Any other computer-based or rule-based system narrative works.

Artworks must be completed by the time of the exhibition, and not at the concept stage. Works-in-progress or technology demonstrations are more appropriate for the academic conference demonstration track and should be submitted there. Submitted works will be reviewed by a jury. Selected works will be exhibited in the exhibition space and included in the online exhibition catalogue. Further documentation material may be required after acceptance, to be discussed together with the artists, for a better understanding and presentation of the work. Authors are encouraged to write an article/paper about their work to be published by Carnegie Mellon ETC Press in an ISBN-numbered volume.

Submit your work using this form [https://forms.gle/Dt6X9k4xtNx3FzzB9](https://forms.gle/Dt6X9k4xtNx3FzzB9) by June 26th. If you have any questions regarding this form please email icids2020arts@gmail.com.
ICIDS20 Call for Exhibition Submissions v5 - 5/6/20

Submissions should provide details of equipment needed and specify what equipment will be provided by the artists. ICIDS is not able to provide financial assistance. The organization will attempt to provide some assistance with equipment and manpower for installation, but artists are encouraged to provide their own equipment and to be present during setup where possible. The curators will be happy to provide a reference letter to aid artists in applying for funding.

Criteria for Selection
We are looking for discomforting, novel, thought-provoking, challenging, evocative, interactive art experiences created by artists with different backgrounds. The selection will be based on the criteria listed below in order of priority.

- **Creativity**: original or innovative use of interactive media, articulating the relationships between interactivity and storytelling.
- **Strength of the concept**: depth, coherence, and originality.
- **Relevance to the theme**: demonstrates the ability to shed light on, elaborate, or personalize the exhibition theme *Texts of Discomfort*
- **Feasibility**: ease of installation (or provides clear guidance for installation) Note: consider restrictions of set-up time, resources.
- **Durability**: work should be able to withstand users’ active interaction.

Exhibition Attendance and Registration Fee Waiver
Selected artists are required to register for, and attend, ICIDS 2020 in order to present their work at the exhibition. ICIDS 2020, in order to help with this, will be waiving registration fees for some selected artists. The registration fee waiver is limited to 1 artist per accepted work and will be for a limited number of total artists. Individuals publishing research papers in the conference will also not be eligible for the fee waiver. Artists eligible for the fee waiver will be contacted following acceptance to offer instructions for how to register for the conference for free.

Important Dates

- **Artwork proposal submission deadline**: June 12th
- **Notice of acceptance/rejection**: August 7th

Jury members may contact the artists prior to this if there is the need for clarification or discussion of details of the submission.

- **Submission of final materials for exhibition catalogue**
Upon acceptance, the curators will contact the artists to discuss details of the artwork and to discuss installation requirements.