

For Immediate Release  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024



Holly Herndon, Mat Dryhurst, Team Rolfes, *JOLENE*, Music video, 3m06s, 2022.

# *Human-alike*

October 4 – November 6, 2024

Curated by Linda Rocco

With work by Petra Cortright, Sarah Friend, IOCOSE, Kalen Iwamoto,  
Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst, and Bogosi Sekhukhuni

Opening Reception: Friday, October 4, 6-8pm

NARS Main Gallery

NARS Foundation is pleased to present *Human-alike*, a group exhibition curated by **Linda Rocco**, featuring works by **Petra Cortright, Sarah Friend, IOCOSE, Kalen Iwamoto, Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst**, and **Bogosi Sekhukhuni**.

As humankind increasingly relies upon technology to conduct daily affairs, sophisticated machines inexorably absorb human-like capabilities to better simulate and predict our behaviours and sensibilities.

At the heart of human/machine interdependence lie extractive, profit-driven logics and addictive stratagems that ingest information and knowledge from one to feed the other, seeking to improve their human-like potential.

*Human-alike* challenges the mechanics of technological innovation, questioning the sociological impacts of hypercommunication and digital saturation on personal identities. It examines how the psychology of clicking, scrolling, and posting has instilled inflated stereotypes and manufactured desires in our collective imagination, flattening individual diversities toward a massification of polarised voices with no clear sense of direction. As the engineering of sophisticated machines harnesses human attention, increasingly mimicking and embodying our behaviours, people become progressively subjugated to realities dictated by the screen environment. These simulacra reside in the users' subconscious, developing disproportionate models of mimetic desires that seek to confuse and marketise previously uncommodified areas of human life.

Showcasing pioneering works by six international artists, *Human-alike* exposes the politics, ethics, and absurdities in our relationship with technology, unveiling a loop of contradictions in the rhetoric of equitable coexistence. At the same time, it opens a critical window into possible technological futures, suggesting alternative ways of living, working, and relating to technology.

**About the curator:**

**Linda Rocco** is a London-based contemporary art curator, researcher, writer, and lecturer at the Royal College of Art. Her practice is situated at the intersection of contemporary art, the curatorial and new media, and converges with interdisciplinary research in emerging technology paradigms, social systems and networked organisation, and alternative economies, advancing propositions for infrastructural futures. With over nine years of independent curatorial experience, Linda has curated exhibitions, public programmes, and residencies internationally, with established organisations such as Delfina Foundation, Yinka Shonibare Foundation, Goethe Institut, and the Mayor of London. She holds an AHRC-funded PhD from the Royal College of Art.

**About the artists:**

**Petra Cortright** is an American artist celebrated for her pioneering work in digital and internet art. She first gained international recognition for her self-portrait videos created with a domestic webcam and then uploaded onto YouTube and captioned with spam text. In recent years, she has expanded her practice to include works in painting and sculpture. Cortright's work has been exhibited globally, including at the Venice Biennale, the 12th Biennale de Lyon, the New Museum (NYC), the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing), the Whitechapel Gallery (London), and the Hammer Museum (LA). Her work is featured in permanent collections at MoMA (NYC), Pérez Museum (Miami), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam) and the Moderna Museet (Stockholm), amongst others.

**Sarah Friend** is an artist and software developer from Canada and currently based in Berlin, Germany. She is currently a Creative Resident with IDEO and is teaching as part of the Dweb Curriculum for Creators at Gray Area, in San Francisco. In 2023, she was a research fellow at Summer of Protocols, led by Venkatesh Rao and the Ethereum Foundation, and in 2022, she was a visiting professor at the Cooper Union. She is represented by Galerie Nagel Draxler (Germany) and has exhibited at and worked with MoMA (NYC), Centre Pompidou (Metz), Kunsthaus Zürich, HEK (Basel), Haus der Kunst (Munich), ArtScience Museum (Singapore), bitforms (NYC), Albright Knox Museum (Buffalo), Rhizome (NYC) and KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin) among others.

**Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst** are artists renowned for their pioneering work in machine learning, software and music. They develop their own technology, and protocols for living with the technology of others, often with a focus on the ownership and augmentation of digital identity and voice. These technical systems not only facilitate expansive artworks across media, but are proposed as artworks unto themselves. They were awarded the 2022 Ars Electronica STARTS prize for digital art. They have sat on ArtReview's Power 100 list since 2021. Holly holds a Ph.D in Computer Music from Stanford CCRMA, Mathew is largely self taught. They have held faculty positions at NYU, the European Graduate School, Strelka Institute and the Antikythera Program at the Berggruen Institute. They publish their studio research openly through the Interdependence podcast, and recently co-founded Spawning, an organization building a consent layer for AI. Their critically acclaimed musical works are released through 4AD.

**IOCOSE** investigates how the narratives surrounding the future of technology leave traces on the present. Their artistic practice focuses on the failure of narratives about the future and technological innovation while producing new interpretations of imaginaries, iconographies and rhetorics through surreal poetics. Founded in 2006 by Matteo Cremonesi, Filippo Cuttica, Davide Prati, Paolo Ruffino, IOCOSE have been exhibiting their work at artistic institutions including MAMbo (2018), Fotomuseum Winterthur (2017), The Photographers Gallery (2018, 2016), Fondazione Modena Arti Visive (2022), Tate Modern (2011), Science Gallery (2012), Jeu de Paume (2011), FACT (2012), Transmediale (2013, 2015), and featured in publications such as Wired, The Creators Project, Flash Art, Neural, Liberation, Der Spiegel, El Pais.

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**Kalen Iwamoto** is a conceptual writer and artist. Her concept-driven work is based on a transdisciplinary and transmedia practice at the intersection of art, text, and technology. She takes a playful and experimental approach in exploring unconventional reading and writing experiences, giving visual and material form to literary concepts that invite us to contemplate the meaning of text, and our relationship to it in contemporary culture. She is a co-founder of theVERSEverse, a literary gallery where poems are works of art, and cofounder of the art & language atelier, Wen New.

Artist and designer **Bogosi Sekhukhuni** offers considerations on cultures and histories of technology and science. Working across a range of media such as sculpture, video, set design, furniture design, and performance, Sekhukhuni develops approaches that think through the mechanics of futurity. Sekhukhuni pursues a research engagement exploring material and theoretical histories of living systems, environments, and physical phenomena. Since 2012, Sekhukhuni's work has been featured internationally in both solo and group exhibitions, including Fondazione Prada (Milan), New Museum (NYC), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Sharjah Art Foundation and African Biennale of Photography (Bamako) among others. Their accolades include the Prix Net Art Award, Rhizome, New York (2017). Sekhukhuni is a founding member of the artist group NTU (South Africa) and has worked closely with CUSS Group (South Africa). Sekhukhuni is a co-founder of the design firm INFANT.

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The NARS Galleries are open Monday - Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information please call the office: 718-768-2765 or email [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).

**The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.



NARS exhibition programs are made possible in part through the generous support from **the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of the **Office of the Governor** and the **New York State Legislature**, and, in part, supported by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**.