

After The Net

Observatori: 9th Festival Internacional de Investigación Artística de Valencia
Centre del Carme, Valencia
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<http://www.observatori.com/>

Featuring work from: Caen Botto, Wayne Clements, Geoff Cox (for project.arnolfini), Lutz Dammbeck, Jeff Gompertz, Rui Guerra, Linda Hilfling, Chun Lee, Aymeric Mansoux and Marloes de Valk (GOTO10), José Antonio Orts, and artists selected from openKURATOR: Burak Arıkan, Bestiario, Carlos Katastrosky, Abe Lincoln, Jimpunk and Mrtamale, Joseph Nechvatal, Cyril de Vroom and Jos Wabeke.

Curated by KURATOR / Produced by LaAgencia



Image: exhibition entrance.

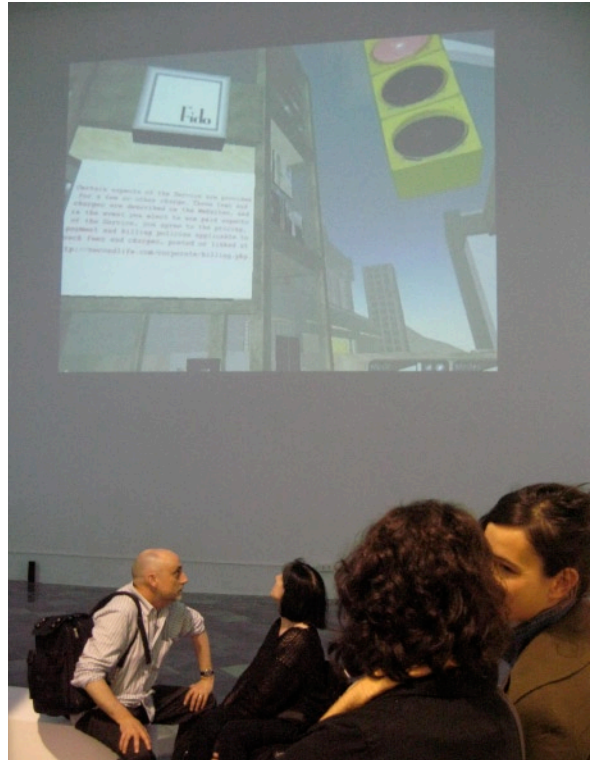
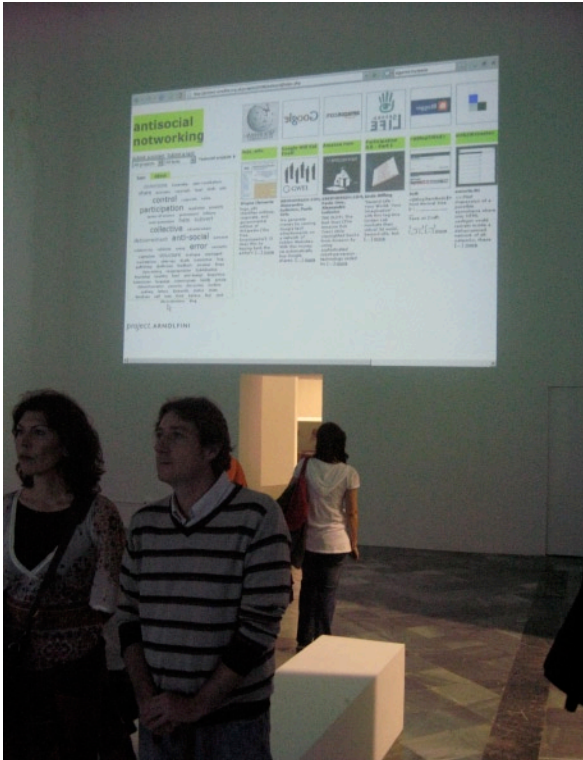
After The Net is a deliberately ambiguous title: implying that somehow the Net is over in terms of its utopian promises and also making a reference to the documentary film *The Net* by Lutz Dammbeck (2003). Like the film, the exhibition explores systems of technological control and presents works that draw attention to historical shifts of network power: from cybernetics to free and open source software, and in turn to social networking platforms.



image: Screening of Lutz Dambeck's *The Net*.

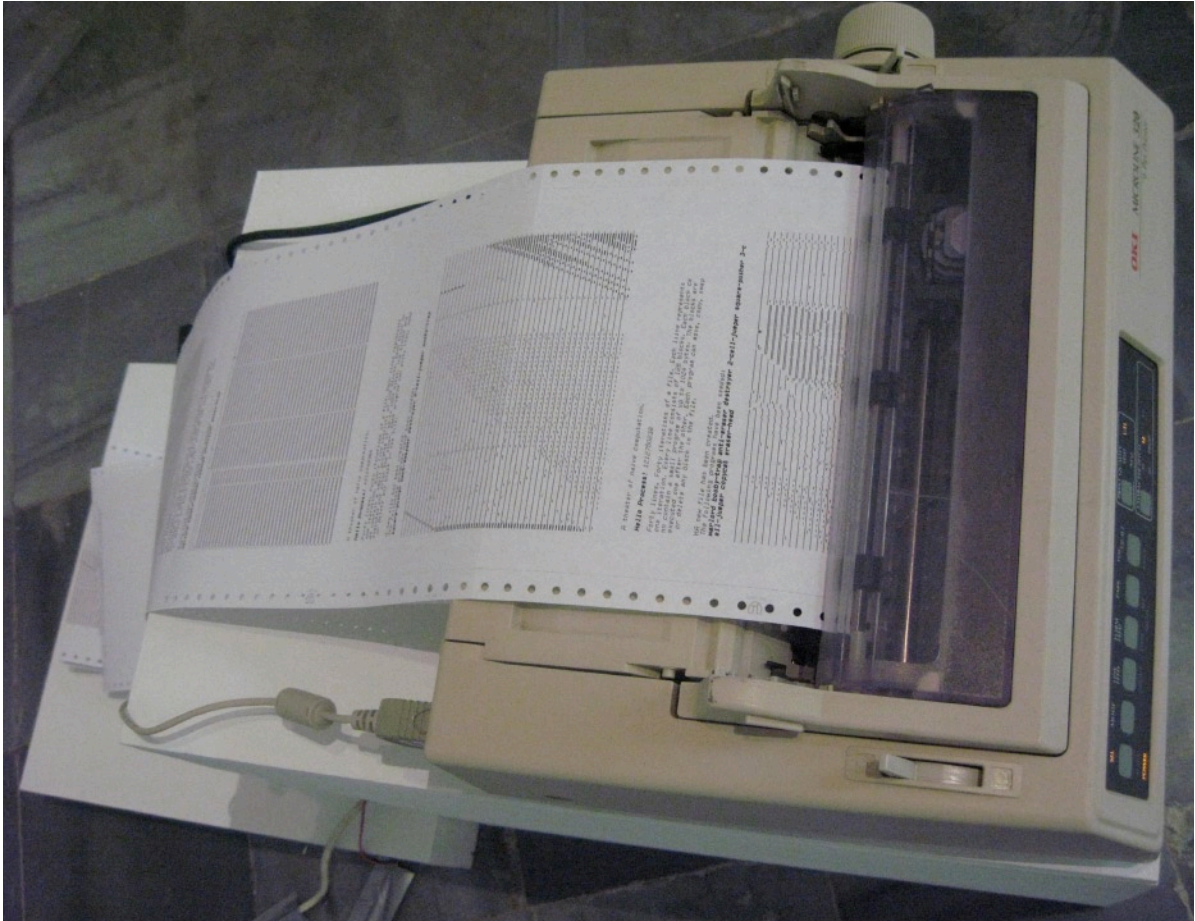
Cybernetics revisited is a retrospective of the work of the artist José Antonio Orts spanning from 1970s to his most recent work. It includes installations incorporating technological systems and objects ranging from light-sensitive sound circuits and prized toys to interactive light and sound sculptures. *Chatroom* by Jeff Gompertz in collaboration with Caen Botto (Universomente) is an installation that uses the capture of video-chat input of audience participants to create a hall of mirrors. *Hello process*, by Aymeric Mansoux and Marloes de Valk (GOTO10) demonstrates the open system paradox of a computer running free software where the complexity of the process at run-time remains impenetrable.

Antisocial networking, curated by Geoff Cox for project.arnolfini, is an online repository of works that explore the pseudo-agency of online social platforms. For the exhibition, three works have been selected from the repository: Wayne Clements's *logo_wiki* identifies how military, corporate and governmental users are responsible for many thousands of unacknowledged alterations to Wikipedia pages; Linda Hilfling's *Participation 0.0 - part I* documents an intervention in Second Life to draw attention to its Terms of the Service; and Rui Guerra's *www_hack* allows all visitors to a single web page to observe each others' mouse movements to demonstrate that the server-client relationship is not free from power structures.



images: projections of project.arnolfini and Linda Hiffling.

image: output of Hello Process by Aymeric Mansoux and Marloes de Valk (GOTO10).



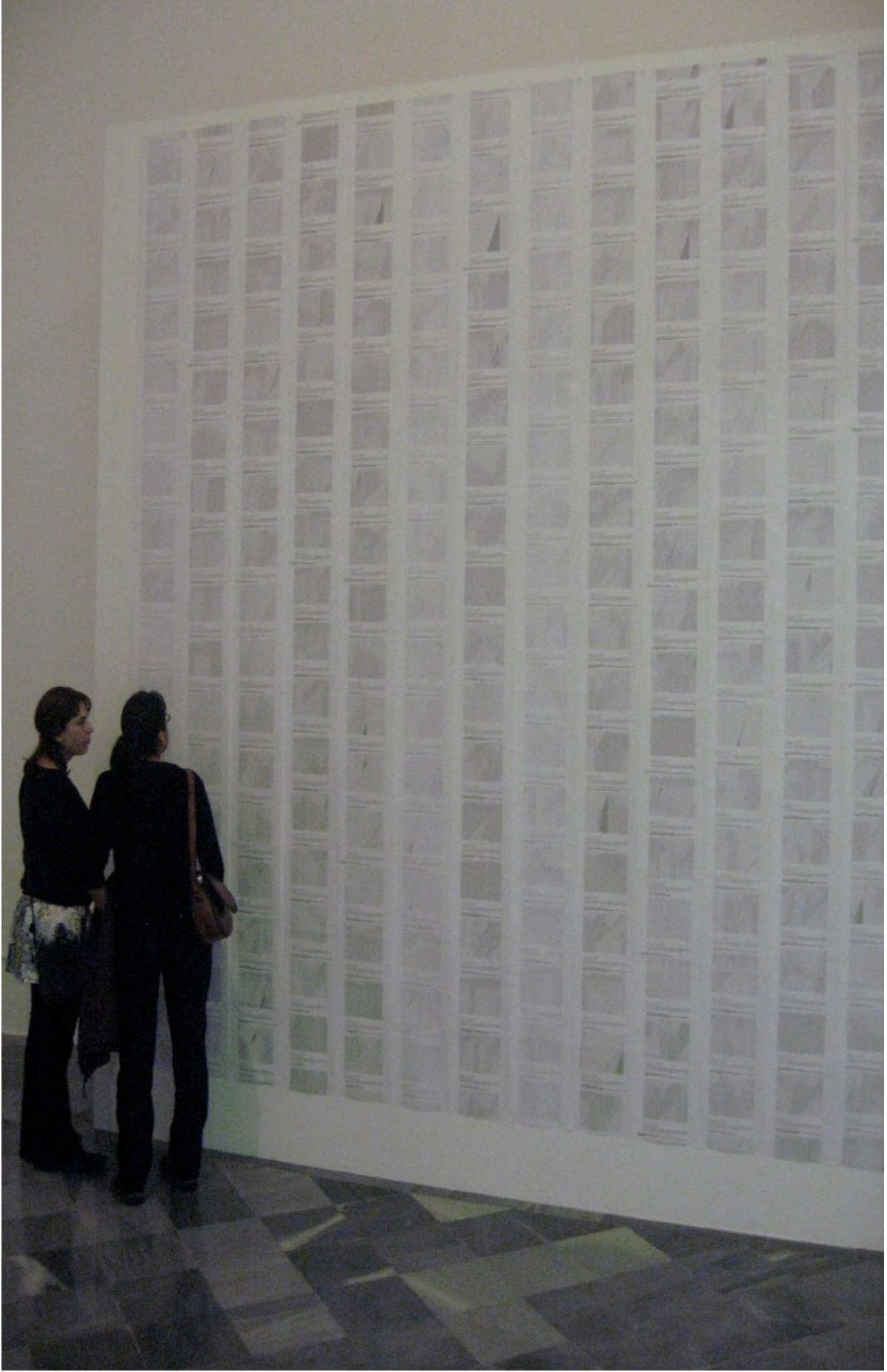


image: Hello Process by Aymeric Mansoux and Marloes de Valk (GOTO10).

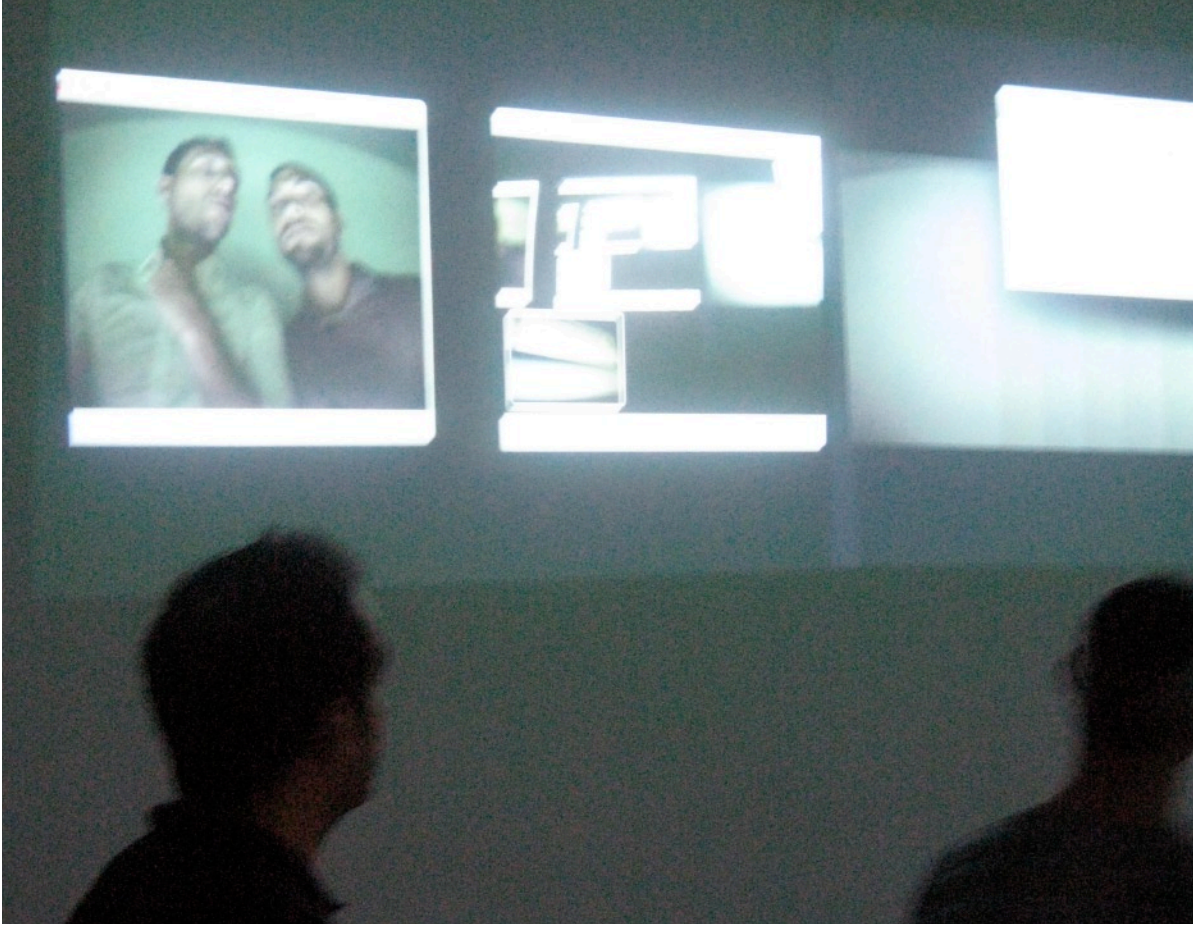


Image: Chatroom installation by Caen Botto and Jeff Gompertz.



image: Aymeric Mansoux & Chu Lee's OxA live electronic music performance.



image: Abe Lincoln, jimpunk, Mrtamale's Triptych.TV from open call.



image: terminals for works from open call.

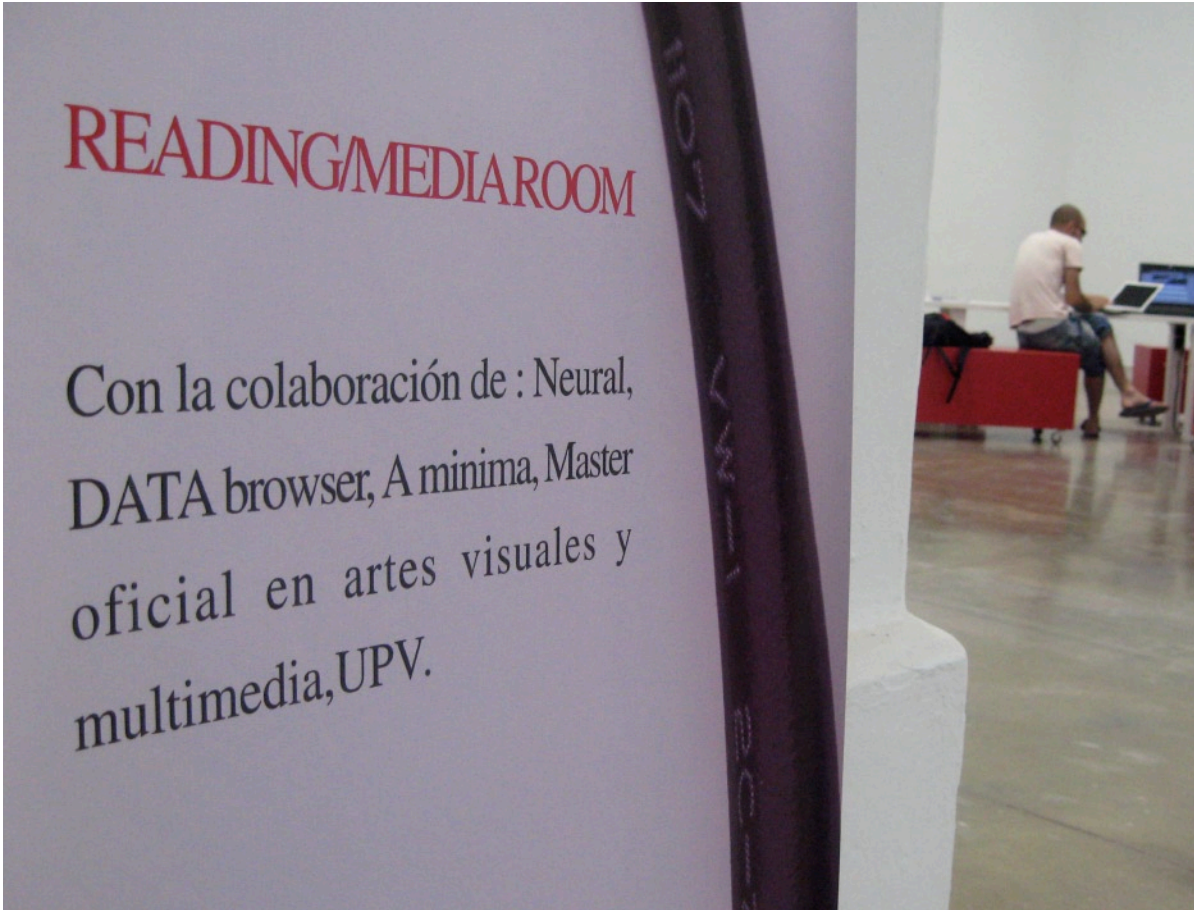
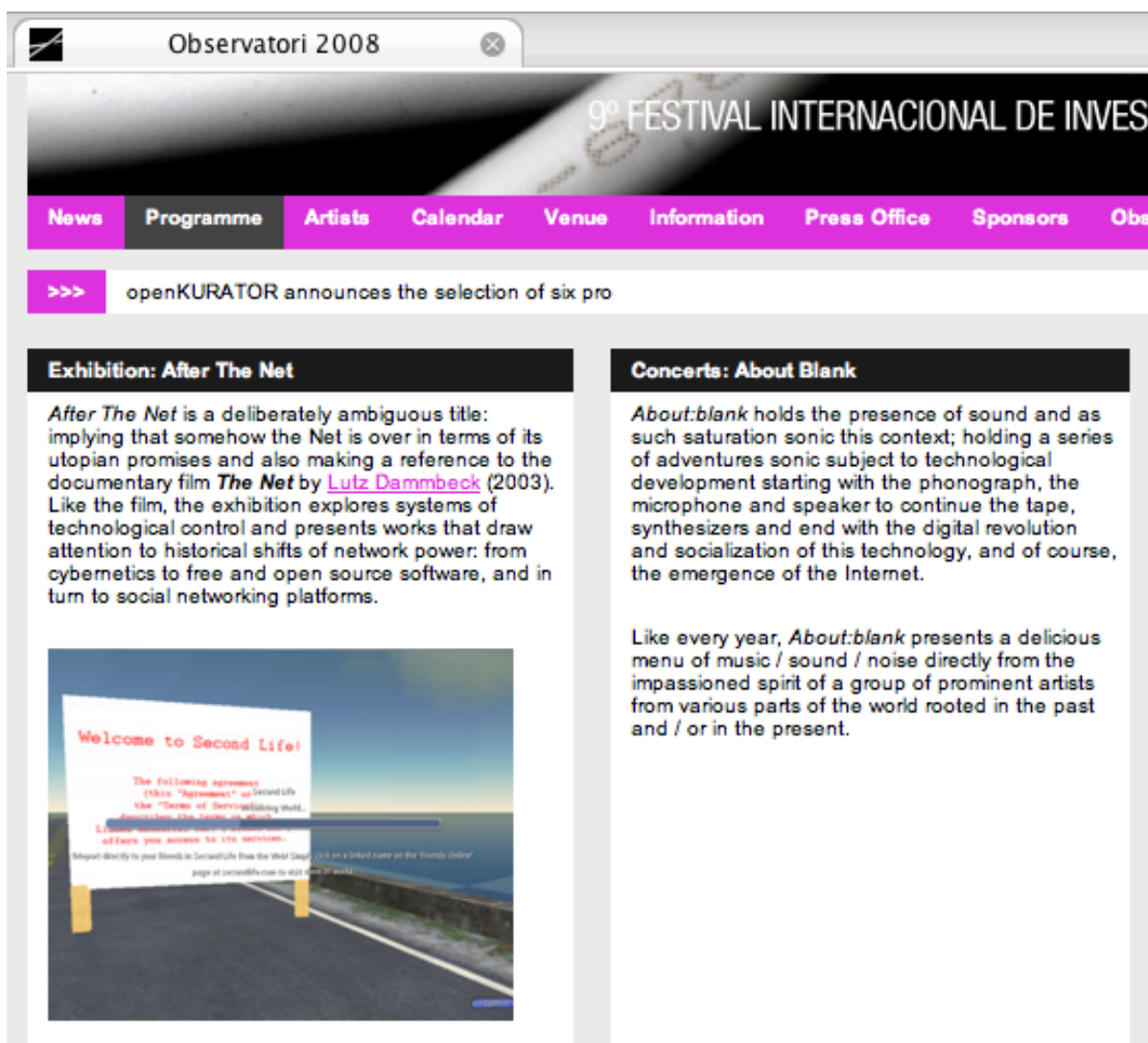


image: reading room.

The exhibition also includes *openKURATOR*, a curatorial online platform developed by KURATOR for Observatori 2008, presenting a selection of works from an open call: *Infomania* by Cyril de Vroom & Jos Wabek, *Hipercontrol*³, *Bestiario*, *Mypocket* by Burak Arıkan, *Netart For Poor People* by Carlos Katastrosky, *Triptych.TV* by Abe Linkoln, *Jimpunk*, *Mrtamale*, and *Viral Symph0ny* by Joseph Nechvatal.

Taken together, the works in the exhibition explore some of the historical roots of technological open systems in relation to ethics and artistic practice and reactivate some of the founding paradoxes. On the one hand, there is an emphasis on the social promises of global networking and instantaneous communication, and on the other, an emphasis on intrusive systems of technological control. The artists in the exhibition respond through critique, invention and panache.



Curated by Joasia Krysa, KURATOR (<http://www.kurator.org>)
 Produced by LaAgencia (<http://www.laagencia.org/>)

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