

INTELLIGENCES

HELSINKI DESIGN RESIDENCY 2020

Curatorial Statement

Forces from different sides are currently decentering traditional models of understanding, imagining and knowing. Within human culture, the primary linguistic-logical mode of "general intelligence" is being augmented with perspectives that re-root cognition in the unencoded experience of concrete space and time (situatedness, practice-based research). Systems of artificial intelligence, meanwhile, develop imagery and languages that are syntactically unintelligible to humans, but operationally meaningful and integral, nonetheless, to these systems' workings. The perceptive, analytical and symbolical capacities afforded by infrastructural installations such as satellite, telescope or global cable networks make them planetary-scale sensory organs that allow us to record and imagine the planet and planetary processes in ways not earlier attainable for humankind.

At this point in (geo)history, we can no more conceive of ourselves as operating on only one mode of cognition than we can conceive of humanity as passionately distinct from a geological, biological or technical exterior. We find ourselves as part of an interacting ecology made up of any number of animate and inanimate, human and non-human, technical, organic and systematic agents on every scale from the molecular through the domestic to the planetary, that each infuse the common whole with other unique means of sensing, imagining and operating.

What consequences, questions, opportunities and paths of reformation can open for or through creative practices when considering a world not governed by a single, but negotiated through the interplay of multiple irreducible, co-existing and co-operating intelligences?