

artspace

50 Orange Street artspacenh.org info@artspacenh.org
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510

Strange Loops

December 13, 2019 – February 29, 2020

Opening Reception

Saturday, December 14, 1–4pm

Press Inquiries

Katie Jurkiewicz
katiej@artspacenh.org
(203) 772-2709

Curator Contact

Johannes DeYoung
johannesdeyoung@gmail.com
Federico Solmi
federico.solmi@yale.edu

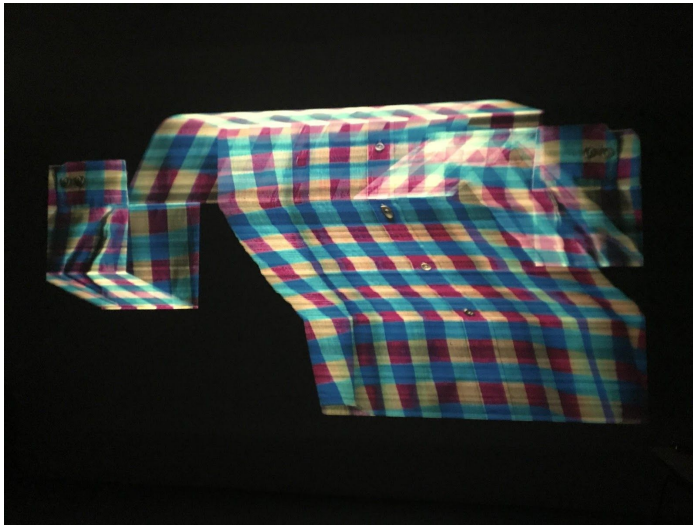


Jon Kessler, *It Takes a Global Village Idiot*, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: New Haven, CT. — Artspace is pleased to present ***Strange Loops***, a group exhibition which explores psychological affect and the human condition expressed through instruments, systems, and objects of human design. *Strange Loops* continues an ongoing conversation begun by pioneers of Net Art and most recently explored in [“Talk to Me” \(2011\)](#) and [“Thinking Machines” \(2018\)](#) at MoMA. While these exhibitions surveyed the promises and processes of communication using digital and electronic media, they stopped short of addressing the anxieties and conflicting emotions brought about by rapid technological change. *Strange Loops* bridges a gap in the ongoing exploration of mass media’s hegemonic influence in an effort to create avenues for agency, plurality, and retort. Featured artists include: [Sam Messer](#), [Sarah Oppenheimer](#), [Jon Kessler](#), [Ana María Gómez López](#), [Blinn & Lambert](#), [Ilana Harris-Babou](#), and [The Virtual Dream Center](#). Organized by Guest Curators [Johannes DeYoung](#) and [Federico Solmi](#).

Through a variety of media including machines, computation, moving-image, painting, sculpture, and performance, the artists in this exhibition explore the boundaries of human experience in an age of emerging technologies that are capable of redefining and transforming our environments at a massive scale. *Strange Loops* highlights what Émile Durkheim described as the malady of the infinite, a condition in which desire without limit cannot be fulfilled, but

only becomes more intense. Today we find expression of Durkheim's ideas in the wake of Moore's Law, a proposition of the engineer and Intel Corporation co-founder Gordon Moore, who forecasted asymptotic growth in the evolution of the integrated circuit. The effects of such transformation in civic, social, and political structures are felt both rapidly and acutely.



Blinn & Lambert, *Romantic Love* (still), 2018

In this moment of cultural anomie, the works in this show serve as sites of expression, experience, and reflection, asking timely and challenging questions of cultures whose embrace of techno-fetishism, digital colonialism, and born obsolescence have placed the Anthropocene into precarious balance. While humanity's race with and against the machine is not a new story, it is one that remains hyper-relevant in the first quarter of this century.

For more than 30 years, Artspace has championed the ideas and artistic concerns of emerging artists and created space for exhibitions on some of the most urgent issues of our time. These topics have spanned the AIDS Crisis (with the group exhibition *Interrupted Lives*, in 1991), the War on Terror (*Between Fear and Freedom*, 2002), Immigration (*Mythical Nation*, 2003), Globalization and the loss of manufacturing jobs in Connecticut, (*Factory Direct*, 2005), racial bias in the Criminal Justice system (*Arresting Patterns*, 2015) to cite just a few of its museum-caliber exhibitions. Over this time frame, Artspace has been at the forefront of New Haven's contemporary art scene, helping artists take creative risks to advance their careers while also quickening the pulse of our community. Touchstone programs such as our Summer Apprenticeship for New Haven Public School students, our City-Wide Open Studios festival and annual new commissions program, and our Artist Residency, together offer our community a unique and dynamic engine for cultural and creative growth. artspacenh.org