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Christine Zufferey

ALIAS or the world as a world without object

multi-disciplinary installation, 2017 - ongoing

<http://www.pluriversum.ch>

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ALIAS OR THE WORLD AS A WORLD WITHOUT OBJECT

or

THE WORKER IN THE SYMBOL SPACE ¹

THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILARS

THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE REPRESSED ²

How does illogic arise out of logic? And in what form and under what disguise does it show itself?

ALIAS or the world as a world without object playfully experiments with the limits of rational concepts and logic. Within this project, dreams and the unconscious, the irrational and illogic, the ambiguous and indeterminate are brought in contact with the rational logic of digital technology.

0 or 1, our digital information society is built on this simple principle ³.

Over the last 150 years the world has been fundamentally transformed by the development of mathematical or symbolic logic and (digital) technology. How are we in return transformed by these concepts and technologies and their inherent ideology ⁴? How do they influence our perception of and interaction with the world?

The multi-disciplinary installation *ALIAS or the world as a world without object* ⁵ (2017 - ongoing) – loosely inspired by Malevich's famous Bauhaus text ⁶ – explores multiple manifestations of this digital evolution.

It investigates and plays with mathematical or symbolic logic (the core of digital processes) and its most basic, rational, logical elements, exploring their inherent immateriality and abstraction. With the emphasis on atmospheric, encompassing and ideological aspects rather than directly technological ones, a subtle, critical reflection on data collection, surveillance and control is embedded.

Are there limits to what can be expressed (and how) through the rigid, logical structures of mathematical logic?

Is the world structured logically?

What (magic) role do numbers play?

Models

The two models represent possible variations of how the different elements from the work series *ALIAS or the world as a world without object* (2017 - ongoing) could come together. A synthetic green line divides the space horizontally.

The room size of the model corresponds to about 7 x 10 m. The digital wall installation corresponds to a length of about 20 m, with a room height of about 3.6 m. By zooming in one can scroll along the wall horizontally and observe details of the individual works in high resolution.

¹ from: *Finite Combinatory Processes – Formulation 1* (The Journal of Symbolic Logic, Vol. 1, No. 3), Emil L. Post, 1936

² a crossmix of two concepts (occurring in a dream of mine):

The Substitution of Similars, The True Principle of Reasoning, W. Stanley Jevons, 1869

Die Wiederkehr des Verdrängten (recurrence of the repressed), from *Die Traumdeutung (The Interpretation of Dreams)*, Sigmund Freud, 1899

³ [Simplifying quantum systems](#), Felix Würsten, ETH, 09/22/2021

⁴ ideology as *coherent, repeated patterns* [Wikipedia: [ideology](#)]

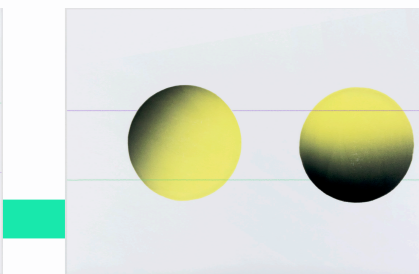
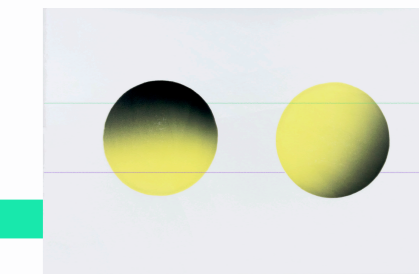
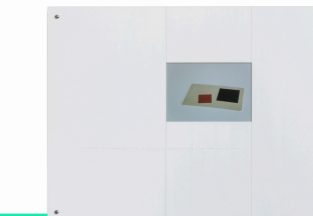
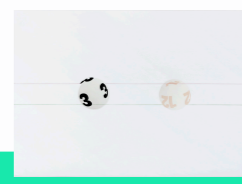
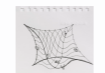
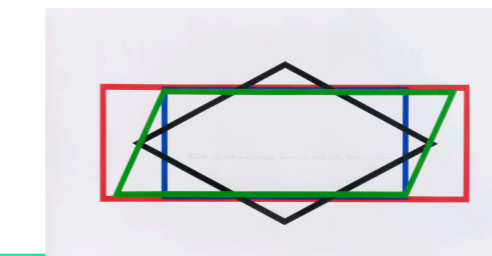
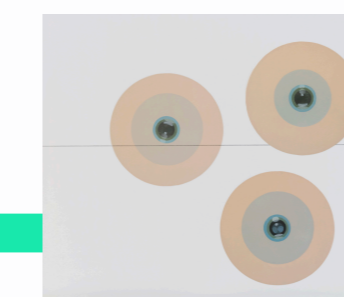
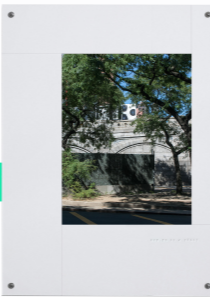
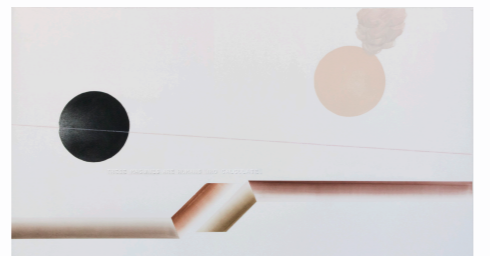
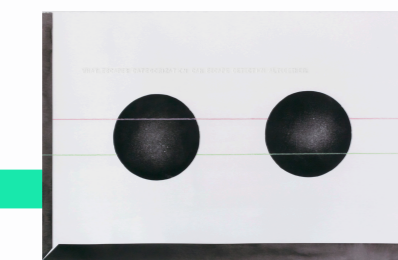
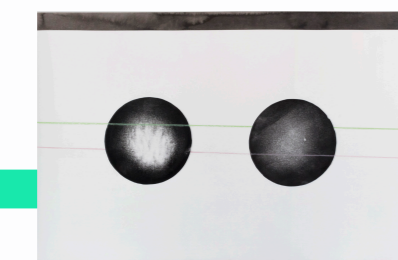
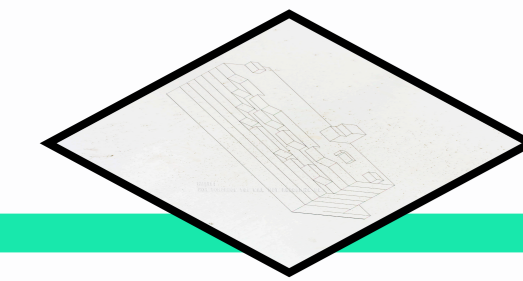
⁵ The title of Malevich's Bauhaus text, manipulated through multiple translations by AI.

⁶ *The Non-Objective World / The World as Objectlessness* (first translation 1959 / new translation 2014)

A detailed PDF of the elements that comprises the work series *ALIAS or the world as a world without object* can be downloaded at http://www.pluriversum.ch/download/pdf/ALIAS_Christine_Zufferey_E.pdf.

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