

MANU LUKSCH

Manu Luksch (b. 1970, Vienna) is an artist and film director whose practice interrogates conceptions of progress with a strong emphasis on research, participation and new forms of engagement.

This path began with her role as artistic director of the Media Lab Munich (a platform by Siemens Kulturprogram / Kulturreferat der Stadt München, 1995-97), and continues to this day through interdisciplinary collaborations.

Manu held roles as Lead Artist at *Radical Matter* (a FWF / PEEK funded research programme at Die Angewandte Wien and Royal College of Art), as Senior Research Associate at AiDLab at the Royal College of Art (2022-2025), as Honorary Fellow at the University of Exeter as participant of *Imagining Futures Through Un/Archived Pasts* (2022), and as Resident Artist (virtual and in-situ) at The Internet Archive, S.F. (2022/23) and School of Law Birkbeck (2020/21). She was recipient of the Open Society Fellowship in 2018/19, and 2021 Roberta Denning Visiting Artist and Lecturer at Stanford University.

Her work has been exhibited widely, including at CaixaForum (Madrid/Sargossa/Barcelona), ZKM Karlsruhe, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Hasselblad Foundation (Göteborg), Onassis Cultural Centre (Athens), KIASMA (Helsinki), Barbican (London), Ars Electronica Centre (Linz), and Centre Pompidou (Paris).

Her award-winning feature and short films have been presented at bfi London Film Festival, CPH:DOX, Seattle International Film Festival, International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, and International Film Festival Rotterdam, among others.

Most recently, she has been developing the independent art space *Chlorophyll Art Lab*. Overlooking Regent's Canal, East London, the space sits at a rare intersection of urban life, water, parkland, and quietude. It will launch with a collaborative artist-in-residence programme, inviting artists to explore and imagine new ways of living within our technological and ecological present.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS (selection)

- *Outstanding Artist Award 2023 for Media Art, Republic of Austria*
- *Globale Perspektiven Award 2020, Frankfurt (ALGO-RHYTHM)*
- *ZONTA Award, 65th Oberhausen Short Film Festival 2019 (ALGO-RHYTHM)*
- *Open Society Fellowship 2018/19*
- *Visiting Fellow, Centre for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London*
- *Winner of Austrian Film Critics Awards 2017 (DREAMS REWIRED)*
- *Best Feature Documentary -Let's Dok it!, Moscow International Documentary Film Festival 2016 (for DREAMS REWIRED)*
- *Best Feature Documentary Soundtrack, DOK.fest Munich 2016 (DREAMS REWIRED)*
- *Recipient of Open Media Awards. Ars Electronica Centre, Linz*
- *New Approaches, professional development bursary, FLAMIN/FILM LONDON (2015/16)*
- *Recipient of ELEVATE Artivism Award 2015 (Graz)*
- *National Media Art Stipend 2012. Austrian Ministry of Culture*
- *Marianne.von.Willemer Prize for Digital Art 2012. City of Linz /Ars Electronica Centre*

ARTIST RESIDENCIES (selection)

- *Off-grid! Alpe die Siusi, Dolomites. Italy 2025*
- *Resident Artist, Internet Archive, San Francisco 2022/23*

- Resident Artist, Somerset House Studios, London 2017-2022
- Roberta Denning Visiting Artist and Lecturer, Stanford University 2021
- Birkbeck's The School of Law, University of London 2020/21
- Xeniform Labs, San Francisco 10/2019
- Videotage, Hongkong 07/2009

FILMOGRAPHY (mid-length and feature films)

I Do Not Have the Courage to Stay Silent, 118 min, AT/UK to be released 2026

Sing and Cry, Cry and Sing, 50min, AT/UK 2022

DREAMS REWIRED, 82 min, AT/UK/Germany 2015

Dreams and fears of hyper-connection, narrated by Tilda Swinton

FACELESS, 50min, AT/UK 2027

introduced concept of 'legal ready-mades', narrated by Tilda Swinton

Virtual Borders, 91 min, AT/UK 2004

hybrid radio-net-documentary project

Broadbandit Highway UK 2001

pioneering self-generative film based on streaming traffic cams

EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2025

ReWilding AI - The Radical Mattering of Narrative Ecologies via Immersive and Distributed Intelligence. VisLab, Royal College of Art ; Siggraph ASIA, Hong Kong

Dreams Rewired, *Metropolis Kino*, Hamburg

Algo-Rhythm, *Fekk Festival 2025*, Ljubljana

Together Yet Alone, G21 Olomouc, Czech Republic

Faceless Seeing in Dreams Festival, Outernet London. Collaboration with Nunguga

AIKONIC - Pubic Voices in AI. University of Sheffield /House of Commons/ Streets of Growth – Hayloft

2024

Algo-Rhythm at 30th Court c'est Court Festival, Cabrière d'Avignon 24, Cavailon

Atlas of the Liminal, *Floating Projects*, Hong Kong

Dreams Rewired at Radio Film Festival, Vienna

Dreams Rewired at TILDA! Stadtkino Wien

Exhibit! Diverse Ausstellungspraxen, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien

Atlas of the Liminal radical matter. When Materialism is No Longer Enough, Angewandte Interdisciplinary Lab

2023

Atlas of the Liminal. Code and Algorithms. Fondation Telefonica Madrid

Code and Algorithms. IMAL Brussel

I thought I was hearing citizens (short film). *Fascinations: AI*. 27th Jihlava Int' Documentary Film Festival

Algo-Rhythm (short film). *Austria's Greatest Hits*. 42. Int. Short Film Festival Uppsala

I thought I was hearing citizens. Science New Wave Festival, New York

Fashion of Resistance. Fashion X AI, Mills Fabrica London

None of the Above: Troubling the Story. IKLECTIK, London

Dreams Rewired. Topologies of the Real: Techne Shenzhen 2022, Museum of Contemporary Art and Urban Planning (MOCAPE)

Thrill Me. Power and Magic of Music. Image and Sound in Contemporary Art. Kunsthalle Luzern, forthcoming

Scientific Musicals, Labocine

Algo-Rhythm (short film). *New York African Film Festival Short Film Selection*, Film Movement Plus

Atlas of the Liminal. None of the above: pAIn. SZN Gallery, London

2022

House of Challenging Orders, Vienna Art Week 2022

Hear/Here To See - City Songlines. launch of artist-guided walk as app for iPhone. Pushkin House, London

Artefacts of Resistance, Somerset House. in collaboration with Srilata Sircar, India and Global Affairs, King's College London, and Mukul Patel

Focus: Films by Manu Luksch, Blickle Kino, Belvedere 21, Vienna

2021

True Fake: Artists' Films Troubling the Real. e-flux Film & Video 2021

Printemps de Septembre – contemporary art Biennale, Toulouse

New Point of View – European Online Competition. The European Short Film Network's THIS IS SHORT Festival 2021

Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic, Institute of Contemporary Art at the Maine College of Art

Solid Roof, Severe Weather. Group exhibition at Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna

2020

Predictive Cities, *DIGITAL POWER*, SIGGRAPH 2020

Contagious Whisper, *No-Place Like the Future*: new commission w/Scott Kildall and online exhibition Austrian Cultural Forum New York and Washington DC

steirischer herbst '20. *Badeverbot Welle 3*, Atelier Schaumbad, Graz

CaixaForum Madrid, *Càmera i ciutat. Escenaris de la modernitat*

CaixaForum Saragossa, *Càmera i ciutat. Escenaris de la modernitat*

WISE 2020, Beijing *Island of New Realities VR festival*

2019

CaixaForum Barcelona. *Càmera i ciutat. Escenaris de la modernitat*

CODAME, Art+Tech Festival, San Francisco

Films by Manu Luksch, Anarchivia/ULTRAcinema, Mexico City

La citoyenneté numérique au Sénégal? RAW Material Company, Dakar

DataLoam, AILab Vienna

Privacy Salon - Computers, Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP) conference

2018 *Kunst in Bewegung*. ZKM Karlsruhe

DREAMS REWIRED, 16th Pyongyang International Film Festival, North Korea

Back to the Future. C/O Berlin

Machine vision: images, pouvoir, algorithmes. Le Bal. Paris

2017 *Yebisu Art Festival*, Top Museum, Tokyo

Hybrid Landscapes, Digital Catapult, London

Watched! C/O Berlin

2016 *Hybrid Identities*, Onassis Cultural Centre

Watched!, Hasselblad Foundation, Göteborg

Futur Non-Conformes -Disnovation, Jeu de Paume, Paris^{SEP}

Cinnamon Colomboscope, Colombo
Ghost on the Wire, Objectifs Gallery, Singapore
16th Seoul International Media Arts Festival

2015 *La Nuit Blanche - Art Souterrain*, Montreal
Social Glitch, Long Night of Museums, Vienna^[1]_[SEP]
Law's Pluralities, Justus Liebig University's Art Centre, Germany
Sheffield DocFest 2015
Playing With Space, firstsite gallery / LADA / Norwich Art Centre

Complete list of exhibitions and festivals: www.ManuLuksch.com

FILM FESTIVALS (selection)

Screenings of short film **ALGO-RHYTHM** (2019)
Donaufestival, Krems 2022
Vienna International Shorts: Young Curators. Filmmuseum Vienna 2022
Afrika Filmfestival Hamburg 2021
Afrika Filmfestival Köln 2021
5th Ramsgate International Film & TV Festival
28th African Film Festival 2021, Virtual Cinema Lincoln Centre. New York City
25th Traveling Series 2022 African Film Festival New York (venues in New York, Portland, Maine; Berkeley, California; Baltimore, Maryland; St. Louis, Missouri and Puerto Rico)
Annecy International Animation Film Festival 2020
63rd bfi London Film Festival: Short Film Competition 2019
65th Int. Short Film Festival Oberhausen, International Competition 2019
36. Documentary and Video Festival Kassel 19, International Competition
Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, International Competition 2019
38th Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Short Film Competition
Antimatter 2019, Victoria, Canada
13th Glasgow Short Film Festival, International Competition
DIAGONALE 2020 Festival of Austrian Film, Short Film Competition
43rd Norwegian Short Film Festival
Vienna Shorts 2020: Austrian Competition
F.A.M.E. #5 – le festival international de films musicaux. La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris 2019

Screenings of feature film **DREAMS REWIRED** (2015) / selection:
44th Rotterdam Film Festival (World premiere);
41st Seattle International Film Festival (US Premiere),
Orphans X, Library of Congress – AV Archive, Virginia;
Filmarchiv Austria, Vienna 2016;
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, 2016;
FilmForum New York (US Cinema release 2015);
CPH:DOX, Copenhagen 2015;
Ulster Festival of Art and Design, Belfast 2015;
25th Message to Man International Film Festival St Petersburg;
32nd Jerusalem Film Festival
Broadcasts: ARTE/ZDF, SAT3, ORF, Pro7
US sales & distribution (cinema, DVD and VOD): Icarus Films
A complete list of screenings and press coverage is online at www.DreamsRewired.com

CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR (selection)

Reciprocity Deficits: Observing AI in the street with everyday publics (2025) Alex S. Taylor, Noortje Marres, Mercedes Bunz, Thao Phan, Maya Indira Ganesh, Dominique Barron, Yasmine Boudiaf, Rachel Coldicutt, Iain Emsley, Beatrice Gobbo, Louise Hickman, Manu Luksch, Bettina Nissen, Mukul Patel, Luis Soares <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2510.23342>

Luksch, M., CAPITAL pAIns: Cassiterite, Tantalum, Lithium in: Johnny Golding & Martin Reinhart eds. *radical ⇌ matter – International Journal for Art, Philosophy, Wild Science* Salon für Kunstbuch 2025. ISBN: 978-3-902374-33-2

Luksch, M.; Patel, M. (2020) *'To Be Connected: Perspectives on Autonomy and Risk from the Electric Age'*. Chapman, A., Hume, N., Newland, C., eds. *Coding and Representation from the Nineteenth Century to the Present: Scrambled Messages*. Routledge

Gürses, S., Luksch, M., & Teran, M. (2010). *'A Trialogue on Interventions in Surveillance Space: Seda Gürses in conversation with Michelle Teran and Manu Luksch'* in *Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 7, No 2.

Luksch, M. (2008). *'From social fact to science fiction. The incident in the incidental'* in *n.paradoxa*, Vol. 22.

Luksch, M. (2010). *'Moonwalk in EchtZeit'* in Avanesian, A., & Hofmann, F., eds. *Raum in den Künsten. Konstruktion, Bewegung, Politik. Transversale Band 3*. München: Wilhelm Fink Verlag.

Luksch, M. (2012). *'Alltagslabor Function Creep'* in Hartmann, D., Lemke, I., & Nitsche, J., eds. *Interventionen. Grenzüberschreitungen in Ästhetik, Politik und Ökonomie*. München: Wilhelm Fink Verlag.

Luksch, M. (2017). *'From the cellar to the cloud: the network-archive as locus of power'* in Dekker, A., ed. *Lost and Living (in) Archives*. Amsterdam: Valiz.

Luksch, M. (2021). *Prediction*. Agostinho, Daniela; D'Ignazio, Catherine; Ring, Annie; Thylstrup, Nanna; Veel, Kristin; eds. *Uncertain in Archives. Critical Keywords for Big Data*. MIT Press

Luksch, M., & Medosch, A. (1999). *'Apropos Art Servers Unlimited'* in Boyd, F., ed. *New Media Culture in Europe*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij De Balie and the Virtual Platform.

Luksch, M., & Medosch, A. (2001). *'Luksch & Medosch'* in Baumgärtel, T. *net.art 2.0. Neue Materialien zur Netzkunst*. Nürnberg: Verlag für moderne Kunst.

Luksch, M., & Patel, M. (2003). *'Wearable Computing and Wireless Networks'* in Sotamaa, Y., ed. *Cumulus: Value in design: disabling disablement, enabling enablement*. Helsinki: University of Art and Design.

Luksch, M., & Patel, M. (2007). *'ambientTV.NET: You Call It Art'* in Coyer, K., Downum, T., & Fountain, A., eds. *The Alternative Media Handbook*. London: Routledge.

Luksch, M., & Patel, M. (2007). *'Chasing the data shadow. A filmmaker's close-up encounter with the Data Protection Act'* in Stocker, G., & Schöpf, C., eds. *Ars Electronica: Goodbye Privacy*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag. also available online in *Variant*, no. 31 (2008).

Mansoor, Ahmed, and Luksch, Manu 2017. *'The last human rights defender in the United Arab Emirates'* An interview with Ahmed Mansoor *Surveillance & Society: Surveillance and the Global Turn to Authoritarianism* 15(3/4): 596-608

Luksch, M. (2020). '*Algo-Rhythm*' in Golding, J.; Paganelli, M.; Reinhart, M.; eds Data Loam. Sometimes Hard, Usually Soft. The Future of Knowledge Systems. Edition Angewandte. De Gruyter

SPEAKER AT CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA & ART VENUES (selection)

2026 Data Justice 2026: The Datafied State. Cardiff University
2023 a pain in the..., SZN Gallery, London
2022 King's x Somerset House Showcase of artist – researcher teams
2021 Roberta Denning Visiting Artist lecture, Stanford University
Public Colloquium, BISR Urban Intersections Experimental Collective, Birkbeck, University of London;
Art as Data Activism. DATACTIVE
Director's Dialogue, Austrian Embassy Manila;
Law Research Seminar Series. The School of Law, Birkbeck, University of London;
2020 Hybrid Futures, Central Saint Martins
AI REUSE, Copenhagen Business School
2019 Closing the Gaps 5G, Digital Catapult, London
Micro-targeting and Tactical Fiction. CPDP Artistic Programme, Bruxelles
Uncertainty, Turbulence and Moving Image Archives, UCL
Entanglement the Opera, RCA
Curating The Urban. On Spatializing Urban Conditions, Halfway, Vienna;
Communication Technologies on Trial, Birkbeck, University of London;
2018 Post-City Lab Seoul, ZER01NE /Ars Electronica EXPORT, Seoul;
Liberties Rewired (event programmer and workshop lead), Volksbühne Berlin
Televisual Utopias, CRASSH, King's College, University of Cambridge
Entanglement conference (keynote), RCA London
2017 Orphans X, Library of Congress; Washington DC
Manu Luksch in dialogue with Shiho Fukohara, Austrian Cultural Forum, Tokyo
2016 Living Pasts, Moving Present. German Screen Studies Network 4th Annual Symposium, King's College London;
Digital Wednesday Salon, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens;
2015 World Privacy Day 2015, Brussels;
Architekturzentrum Wien: Platz Da! European Urban Public Space;
4th Biannual Surveillance and Society Conference, City University London;
Mutating Media Conference, Vooruit, Ghent;
Goodbye Privacy Conference, Ars Electronica, Linz;
Identity 2.0 – Die Wiedergewinnung der Souveränität, UNESCO Lounge, Austria;

KEYNOTES

'Moonwalking into the Future' Digitalising State symposium (as part of ERC Advanced Grant [Regional Futures](#)), Prof Ayona Datta, Dept of Geography, UCL 2023

'Converted Gaze', Artivism: The Art of Subverting Power. 30th conference of the Disruption Network Lab Berlin, 2023

'Televisual Utopias' Hybrid Futures, Digital Innovation Season at Central Saint Martins

'Chasing the Data Shadow' Public space controlled: artists watch over this conference by Prof Pascal Le Brun-Cordier, Master Projet Culturels dans l'Espace Public, La Sorbonne 2008

Visiting Lecturer to Art, Philosophy, Literature and Surveillance Studies (selection)

Die Angewandte Wien, Applied Human Rights and the Arts;
Art and Art History, Stanford University;
International Center for Knowledge in the Arts, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts
Royal College of Arts, Digital Direction - Critical Forum;
Institut für Medienwissenschaften, Universität Paderborn;
Art+Science, Universität für Angewandte Kunst Vienna;
Film Studies, Surveillance Studies, University of Kingston, Canada;
Cinema Studies and Literary Studies, University of Toronto;
Dept. of Criminology Gill University of Montréal;
Interactive Media, Goldsmiths College London;
Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien;
Institut für Philosophie. Freie Universität Berlin;
Digital Urban Living & Digital Aesthetics Research Center, Aarhus University;
Srishti School of Art, Technology and Design, Bangalore, India;
E-Media Lab, Estonian Academy of Arts

ARTISTIC DIRECTORSHIPS

2026 Chlorophyll Art Lab (forth-coming)

Founder

1997-2017 ambienttv.net / Ambient Information Systems, London

Founding member and Lead Artist of interdisciplinary arts production and R&D hub based in London. Until 2016 it included an event space and artist in residence programme.

1995-1997 MedienLabor München

Artistic Director. Programming the artist-in-residency program, public lectures, workshops. Consulting cultural organisations on the integration of digital media and internet in their creative work flows; Head of R&D team of the EXPO2000 online presence and the first ever website of the City of Munich.

EDUCATION

1997 MA (Master of Arts) Fine Arts / Arts Education, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

MA History and Social Sciences including PGCE, University of Vienna

1994 Foreign Study Scholarship Chiang Mai University, Faculty of Fine Arts Thailand

1993 Foreign Study Scholarship Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Bangkok

1988-89 Visiting student, University Fribourg, Switzerland, History of Art and French