

Digital Museums— “Hot Body, Cool Tech: Performative and Choreographed Bodies in New Media”

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“Hot Body, Cool Tech: Performative and Choreographed Bodies in New Media” is a digital art exhibition co-organized by Francesca Albrezzi and I-Wen Chang. The exhibition proposal won the digital art curation contest in Taiwan and the show will be hosted at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in 2017. The exhibition showcases contemporary artists who are attempting to connect with audiences by creating experiences with new media that disrupt perceptions of reality, consider the efficacy of digital objects, and draw on human empathy.

As digital technologies have become our tools, prosthetics, and companions, artists are questioning and incorporating their continued and varied uses. Within media that embody elements of “reality,” like photography or film, semiotic nature often becomes muddled. The mind thinks it knows what it is experiencing and fills in a context, unaware of the cultural kaleidoscope through which the material is being filtered. The exhibition asks visitors: How do we understand and define our humanness within a growing digital world, where machines are programmed to act like humans and humans are encouraged to perform like machines?

In response to this problem, the curators focus on “performativity” and “choreography,” terms used to rethink ideas of subjectivity, embodiment, and social identities, and bring agency to the body and bodily experience in both cultural and individual aspects. The selected artworks emphasize how human bodies exist in an era of new media, exploring concepts of: Extension of Body, Replacement of Body, Internet and Body, Materiality, and Abstract vs. Natural.

Inviting global perspectives, artists featured in this exhibition are from around the world, including Spain, the United States, the United Kingdom and Taiwan. In addition, a companion exhibition website will feature a virtual reality tour of the exhibition space for remote visitation and virtual conversations with the artists to encourage further exploration and discussion beyond museum walls.