

HOTHOUSE

A Renegade Lab for Democracy against Technocapitalist Authoritarianism

September 12 – October 4, 2025

Atelier Augarten, Scherzergasse 1A, 1020 Vienna

thefutureofdemonstration.net/hothouse

Artificial intelligence is already a part of our everyday lives – but how can we live with it without submitting to it?

HOTHOUSE, the fifth season of the art series *The Future of Demonstration*, brings together artists, activists, and theorists from around the world to explore the political, social, and ecological consequences of emerging technologies. What once promised to effectively and playfully solve societal and other challenges is increasingly being used as a claim to authoritarian power. This development signals a shift: from AI gamification to AI weaponization. HOTHOUSE reveals how new technologies reinforce authoritarian structures, fuel culture wars as well as actual warfare, and worsen the climate crisis – and it calls on the audience to reflect on what it means to resist in a world shaped by technocapitalism. At the art project's core are counter-models based on self-determination and solidarity.

In four discursive-performative events [s. [website](#)] embedded in a multilayered installation of objects, artifacts, point clouds, maps, posters, documentaries, videos, sound, songs, and podcasts, HOTHOUSE becomes a space for artistic research and collective thinking. A specially developed 3D technology connects participants across borders – creating new forms of co-presence. HOTHOUSE is not a speculative vision of the future – it is a space of resistance and listening to each other. It invites us to conceive of democracy not as a rigid system, but as an open process that is constantly renegotiated – by taking all voices into account, whether human or nonhuman.

About

The Future of Demonstration is an art series by Sylvia Eckermann and Gerald Nestler that explores new forms of collective resistance and expanded ways of perceiving the world. Its postdisciplinary format combines exhibition, discourse, performance and documentation, bringing together artistic, technological, political and social practices in a participatory way.

HOTHOUSE, the fifth season of the series, is produced in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation – Global Unit for Human Security, Tactical Tech, Berlin; and the Lisbon Architecture Triennale.

Participating groups and initiatives include: adO/Aptive (Vienna), Disintegrator Podcast (Online), Forensic Architecture / Centre for Research Architecture (London), Stop Killer Robots Coalition (Global), Technopolitics (Vienna), Territorial Agency (London).

More about all contributors:

<https://thefutureofdemonstration.net/hothouse/credits.html>

Artists in charge of the project:

Gerald Nestler and Sylvia Eckermann

Contact: studio@theoriesinmind.net