

Art and Politics

**The Edith Russ Site for Media Art:
A Space for Presentation and Production
of Media Art**

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The Edith Russ Site for Media Art is an art institution dedicated to the presentation and discussion of media art. In 1993 school teacher Edith Russ made an endowment to the city of Oldenburg associated with the demand that an institution is going to be established, that focuses on “art on the transition of the 21st century”. With its focus on art and media the Edith Russ Site has an outstanding position in the German museum landscape. It’s a

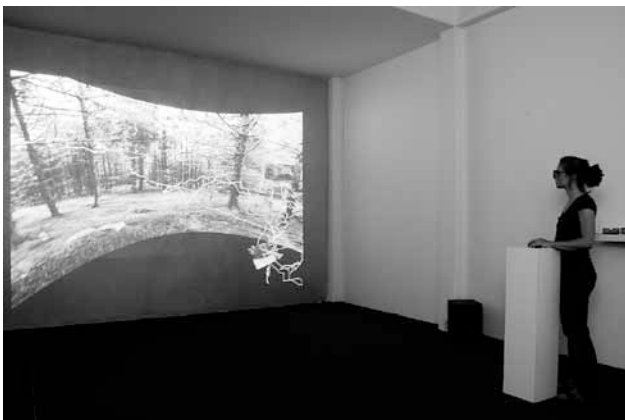


Fig. 1: Masaki Fujihata, *Simultaneous Echoes*, 2009 Photo: Franz Wamhof

place for presentation and communication, dealing with the use and reflection of media in contemporary art practice as well as the increasing digitisation and virtualization of our society and the influence of media on our lives. In a regularly changing exhibition program innovative and experimental positions in contemporary (media) art are shown.

With its international residency program the Edith Russ Site for Media Art also has gained reputation as a place for the production of media art. Supported by the Foundation of Lower Saxony, every year three residencies are allocated to artists for the production of a new work. The call for projects is very open and does not distinguish between different categories, because many works are using an interdisciplinary approach. The open structure allows the production of different forms of media based art – from interactive works to software based projects, from sound installations to performative events.

The presentation will show examples from exhibitions (e.g. *Ecomedia_Ecological Strategies in Today's Art*, *I-Machine_Robots Performance Fashion Film*, *Landscape 2.0_Reality and Artificiality of the Landscape*) and projects commissioned or produced at the Edith Russ Site for Media Art (e.g. Sine Wave Orchestra, Eddo Stern, Cornelia Sollfrank, uebermorgen.com, Petko Dourmana, Jens Brand).



Fig. 2: Petko Dourmana, *Post Global Warming Survival Kit*, 2008 Photo: Franz Wamhof

The presentation also focuses on the current exhibition *MyWar. Participation in an age of conflict*, a collaboration between FACT in Liverpool and Edith Russ Site for Media Art which is co-curated by Andreas Broeckmann, Heather Corcoran and Sabine Himmelsbach. The exhibition presents contemporary artworks that explore different ways of implication in current or historic wars by degrees of mediation. It tries to pinpoint the moral dilemmas that emerge from the ubiquity of the war condition, and to differentiate between the different levels of implication. The exhibition follows two separate threads. In the first of these, the artists adopt a radically individualistic approach to war. In the second thread of the exhibition, artists directly engage

with the way in which web technologies have infiltrated and influenced global wars. Examples will include works by Harun Farocki, Oliver Laric, S.W.A.M.P, Thomson & Craighead, Milica Tomić and others.



Fig. 3: Milica Tomić, One day, instead of one night, a burst of machine-gun fire will flash, if light cannot come otherwise, 2009