Press Release
THE SERPENTINE MARATHON 2017
GUEST, GHOST, HOST: MACHINE!
City Hall, London, 7 October, 10am-10pm
Live radio broadcast at radio.serpentinegalleries.org

- 12th annual Festival of Ideas addresses the ‘Ghost in the Machine’
- 12+ hours of speakers, live music and performance at City Hall
- 50+ participants explore artificial intelligence, art and humanity

"The ghost is in the machine, but what is the machine – and who is the ghost?"
Walter Murch

Is art changing in the age of artificial intelligence? What are the emerging relationships between machines and the human spirit? If we don’t know what consciousness is how can we qualify ’intelligence’? Are we too late to define the ethics of our machines? Does the future belong to non-human entities? Is the existential threat real?

View Full Programme here

Serpentine Galleries announces its twelfth annual festival of ideas – the Guest, Ghost, Host: Machine! Marathon – bringing together artists, scientists, engineers, poets, AI developers, sociologists, philosophers, filmmakers, writers,
anthropologists, occultists and musicians to consider the impact of artificial intelligence and its relationship to human development on planet earth.

This will be the twelfth in the Marathon series, the Serpentine's interdisciplinary meeting of ideas and practitioners in the fields of art, culture, science and technology. After a trilogy of Marathons that addressed Extinction (2014), Transformation, (2015), and Miracles (2016), the Serpentine turns to the near future, exploring artificial intelligence, interspecies cooperation, machine learning, transhumanism and non-linear time. For over 12 hours in front of a live audience, more than 50 participants will address the most pressing themes and challenges that will define the coming age of autonomation.

The Guest, Ghost, Host: Machine! Marathon will question the potential role of non-human intelligence under platform capitalism, the biopolitical economies of automation, the divinatory rites of machines, conscientious objection to drone warfare and other spectres that haunt our collective future.

For the first time in its history, the Marathon will be haunting City Hall, headquarters of the Mayor of London and the Greater London Assembly. The entire Marathon will be broadcast live on Serpentine Radio, the Serpentine's online platform dedicated to livestreaming of talks, events and performance.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, and Yana Peel, CEO, Serpentine Galleries, said: “The Serpentine Marathon explores archipelagos of thinking and the Guest, Ghost, Host: Machine! Marathon continues in this interdisciplinary tradition. While artificial intelligence is often thought of as human vs machine, it's critical that the discussion includes a diversity of practices and perspectives. These developing technologies will affect every aspect of our lives in the decades to come.”


To launch the GUEST, GHOST, HOST: MACHINE! Marathon, Raqs Media Collective will present Hollowgram, a new holographic sculpture commission which meditates on the inner life of power. Situated for the duration of Frieze Week in Francis Kéré’s Serpentine Pavilion, Hollowgram reflects on majesty and the marble and bronze statues commemorating historical figures in Kensington Gardens. Raqs Media Collective are also key interlocutors in the shaping of the ideas that underpin this year’s Marathon.

As a prelude to the Guest, Ghost, Host: Machine! Marathon on Friday 6 October, filmmaker and theorist Manthia Diawara and artist Sarah Morris première
their new films and discuss them with Hans Ulrich Obrist. Sarah Morris presents *Finite and Infinite Games* (2017, 40’) at 7pm. Manthia Diawara presents *An Opera of the World* (2017, 70’) at 8.30pm.

The **Guest, Ghost, Host: Machine! Marathon** is curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Serpentine Artistic Director; Claude Adjil, Curator, Public Programmes; Ben Vickers, CTO; Taylor Le Melle, Assistant Curator, Public Programmes; and Kay Watson, Assistant Digital Curator.

The core Marathon advisory team is: Sophia Al Maria, Zach Blas, Lizzie Carey–Thomas, Marcus du Sautoy, Ben Eastham, Nicoletta Fiorucci, Ed Fornieles, Leo Hollis, Mark Leckey, Kenric McDowell, Andrew O’Hagan, Yana Peel, Lucia Pietroiusti, Alice Rawsthorn, Marianna Simnett, Victoria Sin, Himali Singh Soin, Morgan Sutherland, Igor Toronyi-Lalic and Zadie Xa.

Serpentine Radio is produced by Reduced Listening.

**LISTINGS**

Tuesday 3-Sunday 8 October, 10-6pm
**HOLLOWGRAM**
Serpentine Pavilion, London W2 3XA. Free.

Friday 6 October, 7pm
**GUESTS, GHOSTS, HOSTS:**
**MANTHIA DIAWARA AND SARAH MORRIS: AN EVENING IN TWO PARTS**
Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London W2 2AR
£15/10. Booking essential via ticketweb.co.uk

Saturday 7 October, 10am-10pm
**GUEST, GHOST, HOST: MACHINE! MARATHON**
City Hall, London SE1 2AA
£15/10. Booking essential via ticketweb.co.uk

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For press images, visit www.serpentinegalleries.org/press
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 3XA
Serpentine Sackler Gallery, West Carriage Drive, Kensington Gardens, London W2 2AR

*NOTES TO EDITORS*

**The Serpentine Marathon**
The annual Serpentine Marathon explores art, architecture, activism, anthropology, literature, music, philosophy, theology and science, through a theme of topical relevance to artists’ practice and the wider contemporary context. Conceived in 2006 by Hans Ulrich Obrist and first housed within the Serpentine Pavilion, the Marathons to date have been: *Interview Marathon*, 2006 (with Rem Koolhaas); *Experiment Marathon*, 2007 (with Olafur Eliasson); *Manifesto Marathon*, 2008; *Poetry Marathon*, 2009; *Map Marathon*, 2010; *Garden Marathon*, 2011; *Memory Marathon*, 2012; *89plus Marathon*, 2013; *Extinction*
Marathon, 2014 (with Gustav Metzger); Transformation Marathon, 2015; Miracle Marathon, 2016.

About Raqs Media Collective
Raqs Media Collective are variously described as artists, media practitioners, curators, researchers, editors and catalysts of cultural processes. Their work, which has been exhibited widely in major international spaces, locates them in the intersections of contemporary art, historical enquiry, philosophical speculation, research and theory – often taking the form of installations, online and offline media objects, performances and encounters. They live and work in Delhi, based at Sarai-CSDS, their Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

GUEST, GHOST, HOST: MACHINE! MARATHON

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Nicoletta Fiorucci, Founder of the Fiorucci Art Trust

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM
The Hayden Family Foundation
Frances Reynolds

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTED BY
Bloomberg Philanthropies

ADVISORS

SERPENTINE GALLERIES SUPPORTED BY
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND