HARTWIG MUSEUM

Press release

Hartwig Art Foundation presents a three-day gathering on technology, consciousness and devotion in Amsterdam

23–25 October 2026
Hartwig Proxy
Cinema The Pulse
Parnassus 212

With Christopher Kulendran Thomas, Lukáš Likavčan, Mark Leckey, Lawrence Lek, Taylor Le Melle, Prathima Muniyappa, Holly Pester, Ariana Reines, Marilou Schultz, Jeremy Shaw, and more.

Amsterdam, 30 September – ***Extreme Presence*** gathers artists, thinkers and technologists to ask: what forms does presence take when the world and its technologies exceed what can be explained, known, or felt?

Following the *Art in the Metaverse* and *Digital Cosmos* conferences (2023–2025), *Extreme Presence* continues and expands the research and development activities of the future Hartwig Museum, investigating the influence of theology in contemporary art and digital technology, alongside ecological practices that have long centred presence and relation.

Extreme Presence responds to a current 'devotional turn': a renewed engagement with forms of mysticism and contemplative traditions in the face of planetary complexity and technological acceleration. How are these frameworks shaping the technologies we build and inhabit today, and what futures do they make intelligible, or imaginable?

Sessions will explore questions including:
- The influence of mystical and spiritual traditions on contemporary practices in advanced computing and artificial intelligence;
- Philosophies and ethics of interrelation, and what kinds of technologies can be built on different foundations;
- Contemplative practices and non-human consciousness;
- Technologies of cultivation: artistic Research and Development across education, incubation and museum infrastructures.

Participants include researcher **Haley Albert**, curator and writer **Daniel Blanga Gubbay**, Analogue founder **Aishwarya Khanduja**, artist **Christopher Kulendran Thomas**, philosopher **Lukáš Likavčan**, artist **Mark Leckey**, artist **Sammy Lee**, artist **Lawrence Lek**, writer **Taylor Le Melle**, artist **Xin Liu**, philosopher **Fainos Mangena**, Restless Egg co-founder **William Morgan**, conservationist and designer **Prathima Muniyappa**, poet **Holly Pester**, poet **Ariana Reines**, writer **Aliya Say**, artist **Jeremy Shaw**, artist **Marilou Schultz**, publisher and writer **Sarah Shin**, curator and writer **Lua Vollaard**, alongside online and film contributions by artist **Liu Chuang**, scholar **Bogna Konior**, games designer **Elizabeth LaPensée**, artist **Tabita Rezaire**, writer **Sumana Roy**, and more.

"*Extreme Presence* marks a significant moment in the development of Hartwig Museum's future research capabilities, ahead of our opening in 2028. It strengthens our commitment to working with artists and practitioners beyond disciplines as research partners. As such, it continues Hartwig Art Foundation's multi-year investigation into the intersections of art and advanced technology and what museum infrastructures can meaningfully sustain them." – Beatrix Ruf, Director Hartwig Art Foundation and Hartwig Museum

Programme Highlights

The programme opens on Friday 22 October at Hartwig Proxy with philosopher **Lukáš Likavčan**'s keynote *Person-Sculpting: AI and Contemplative Practice*, followed by a conversation with researcher **Bogna Konior** and artist **Lawrence Lek** on devotional technologies across theology, Buddhism and AI.

On Saturday, *Extreme Presence* moves to Cinema The Pulse for a lecture performance by artist **Mark Leckey**, tracing connections between medieval prophecy, apocalyptic visions, 20th-century counterculture and Y2K on a journey towards the high-dimensional world of the singularity.

On Sunday 24 October, the pop-up space Parnassus 212 hosts a weaving workshop with fourth-generation Diné (Navajo) weaver and educator **Marilou Schulz**. Her intricate weavings of microchips, QR codes and digital circuitry engage the logic of digital systems through Diné weaving traditions, natural dyes and formal experimentation, proposing weaving as a foundational technology rooted not in automation, but in the intelligence of the hand.

These are just a few highlights from a wider programme of talks, performances and screenings. Consult the full programme here.

Credits and practicalities

Extreme Presence is curated by **Lucia Pietroiusti**, Head of Research & Emergence, Hartwig Art Foundation, in collaboration with **Memory Gems** (**Leonardo Dellanoce** and **Arthur Steiner**) and the Hartwig Art Foundation team.

The programme is spread across three locations in Amsterdam Zuid—Hartwig Proxy (Parnassusweg 213), Cinema The Pulse, (Hildegard Von Bingenstraat 4) and the newly opened pop-up space Parnassus 212 (Parnassusweg 212).

Tickets range from €5 to €10, with discounts available for eligible visitors. Programme components can be attended individually.

Notes to editors

Full programme available here

Tickets available here. **Please reach out to Hartwig Art Foundation for press tickets or interview requests:**

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Images can be downloaded here

About Hartwig Art Foundation
Hartwig Art Foundation is dedicated to the production, presentation, and collection of contemporary art. We foster contemporary artistic development, exchange and critical enquiry through global collaborations and commissions. Currently, we are developing the **Hartwig Museum**, a major new contemporary art museum in Amsterdam scheduled to open in 2028. Until then, our temporary space, **Hartwig Proxy**, serves as a testing ground and meeting place in the city for artists, neighbours and cultural communities alike. For more information, please visit www.hartwigartfoundation.nl.

Credits & Beeldmateriaal:

Detail of Paolo Uccello, *Battle of San Romano* (ca.1435-1440). Courtesy of Mark Leckey

Extreme Presence graphic design: Bart de Baets

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