

Dialogues with Devices: The Space Between Human and Machine

Robert Good, Paul Laidler, Laura Rosser

Dialogues with Devices is an exhibition that examines our evolving relationship with technology. The artists' collaborative work draws upon ideas of theatre, rehearsal, scene-building, scale **and labour** to create a conversation between their individual practices, and opening a wider discourse around the technological imaginary.

This experimental inquiry centres on the relations between ourselves as human entities and more-than-human digital technologies, which are increasingly encroaching into arenas once considered to be exclusively human; now shared, contested, reconfigured and surveilled.

Robert Good is an artist based in Cambridge whose work explores the impact of technology on our lives and the migration of knowledge from analogue to digital.

Tower No.1 is a first experimental structure, built in response to Richard Brautigan's 1967 poem *All Watched Over By Machines of Loving Grace* in which he envisages a future '... cybernetic ecology/ where we are free of our labors/ and joined back to nature... and all watched over/ by machines of loving grace'. Brautigan's poem implies, but does not specify, how we will be 'all watched over', and *Tower No.1* provides a point of reflection to consider the dynamic between ourselves and the technological environment in which we now live.

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Paul Laidler's work is grounded in the belief that originality often lies dormant within copies and reproductive endeavour, waiting to be unlocked through the act of remaking. He sees remakes and derivatives not as mere repetitions or inferior artefacts, but as opportunities to reveal new insights and layers of meaning.

Inspired by Philip K. Dick's speculative fiction, especially *Pay for the Printer* (1956), Laidler engages with generative AI to create visual reinterpretations that reflect humanity's evolving reliance on technology in the creative process, intention and machine output. His visual series *To Live Is to Be Haunted* exemplifies this, embracing themes of uncertainty, revisitation, and the traces left by both human and machine-generated decisions. In this series, Laidler positions AI not merely as a tool, but as a collaborator that actively participates in shaping creative outcomes.

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Laura Rosser is a Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Falmouth University. Her print-based practice draws on expanded understandings of error to reimagine our relationships with technologies and systems.

Working with her collection of dot matrix printers, printed ephemera and low-tech systems, she creates installations that are concerned with ideas of obsolescence, and resist linear narratives of technological innovation and progress. In this body of work error is rethought as exhibiting relational agency—entangled within networks of humans and more-than-human matter and thought. Drawing on Kate Crawford's *Atlas of AI* (2021), Rosser's *Potemkin's Curtain of AI* reminds us that error is embedded in wider infrastructures of computation that gesture to the extractive, exploitative and unstable foundations of digital systems.

www.laurarosser.com

List of Works *Auction House*

1. Robert Good *Feedback Station* monitor, Raspberry Pi, Python code, 2024
2. Robert Good *Snap*, monitor, camera, Raspberry Pi, Python code, 2024
3. Robert Good *Catatonic*, monitor, motion sensor, Raspberry Pi, Python code, 2023
4. Paul Laidler *To Live Is to Be Haunted, after Philip K. Dick*, oil painting (produced by Dafen Oil Painting Village Net), 2025
5. Paul Laidler *To Live Is to Be Haunted, after Philip K. Dick*, hand carved wooden cup (produced by Richard Preece), 2025
6. Paul Laidler *Exhibition Appeal, after Ignas Kalpokas*, wooden maquette (produced by Richard Preece), 2025
7. Paul Laidler *To Live Is to Be Haunted, after Philip K. Dick*, pigmented inkjet print under clear acrylic, 2024
8. Laura Rosser *Potemkin's Curtain of AI*, dot matrix print, listing paper, Dexian racking, LED lighting, 2025
9. Laura Rosser *1000 Micro-Decisions*, receipt printer, printed receipts, 2025

List of Works *Back Lane West*

10. Robert Good *Tower No. 1*, plywood, 2025
11. Laura Rosser *HITL (Human-in-the-Loop)*, dot matrix printer, spotlights, yellow curtains, 2025