

LOOP Talks 2023: Collecting video as a path to innovation



22–23 November 2023

Almanac Barcelona (Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 619–621)

The LOOP Talks are a series of roundtable discussions, one-to-one conversations and professional gatherings exploring artists' film and video. By bringing together international art experts, these 2-day marathons look into analysing the modes of film practices both formally and conceptually, putting forth questions on how the moving image is produced, perceived and circulated within and outside the gallery space.

LOOP Talks is pleased to present a set of conversations amongst practitioners and professionals to shed light around the role of moving image nowadays. This year we host a wide array of views, ways of doing and terms of engagement that take into account: the specificity of the medium, the challenges that digital culture and its fast-developing technical capabilities present, and the attitude that collectors and collectors need to embrace now.

We are pleased to stage a tribute to Guada Echevarría, who passed away this year and founded the legendary San Sebastian Video Festival. At the same time, the talks will pay special attention to the question of how the connection between the work and the collector informs a path towards collecting.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22

10.30–11.10h

'Why video: video as an activator (of audience) and a generator (of knowledge)'

Dr. Andrea Lissoni (Artistic Director, Haus der Kunst Munich) in conversation with Carolina Ciuti (Curator and Director of exibart.es).

11.15–12.30h

'Art in the Age of Immersion – Lawrence Lek: Layering Virtual and Physical Worlds'

Lawrence Lek (Artist) and Carly Whitefield (Senior Curator at LAS Art Foundation Berlin) in conversation.

Artist Lawrence Lek crafts speculative scenarios that take the form of CGI films, video games, installations and soundtracks set within a Sinofuturist universe. As part of the LOOP fair, he is presenting the video installation Black Cloud Highway (2023), which

forms part of a larger series of works exploring the integration of AI into urban life. In this talk, Lek sits down with curator Carly Whitefield to discuss his approach to worldbuilding in game engines, architectural simulation, machinic perspectives, virtual cinematography, and his layering of the virtual and physical in the context of installation.

12.40–13.30h

‘Artists’ Films Backstage – who is behind?’

Rafael Ortega (Cinematographer) and Lisa Long (Artistic Director, Julia Stoschek Foundation Berlin) in conversation.

17h

‘Tribute to Guada Echevarría: founder of Festival de Vídeo de San Sebastián’

Antoni Muntadas (Artist), Eugeni Bonet (Curator), Anne-Marie Duget (Academic) and Miguel Zugaza (Director, Museo de Bellas Artes Bilbao) in conversation.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23

‘Collections with Purpose’

A series presented by Amira Solh (Curator)

While Art has metamorphosed into an industry of fairs, auctions, galleries and museums, we take a moment to step off the hamster wheel and refocus on the work of art through the eyes of collectors with purpose. More than ever, the philosophy and psychology of behind art collections are of intriguing interest. How do you cultivate the collection? How does the connection between the work and the collector inform a pathway to collecting? Are there new considerations in collecting today that are different than they were from the inception of the collection? How have the thematics of the type of collecting evolved over time? And what is the best way of giving access to the art collection?

10.30-11.40h

Dorith Galuz (Collector)

11.45-12.30h

Jean Phillipe Vernes (Collector)

12.35-13.30h

Markus Reyman (Co-director TBA21)