



waag technology & society

Waag - technology & society award

Like last year it is the social and the environmental that played an important role in many of the students' exam works of 2021. It is their matters of concern, we can learn much from and why at Waag we are inspired by experiencing all these investigative, critical, discursive, sometimes participatory projects of the bachelor departments ArtScience, Graphic Design and Interactive/Media/Design and the master departments ArtScience, Non Linear Narrative and Industrial Design. It is the probes, looking both back and forth, made by these creative minds that offer us other perspectives on the challenges we and our fellow species have ahead.

BA

Ada Popovic - *Basketology* (winner bachelors)

Graphic Design - <http://graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/ada-popowicz>

Starting with Ursula K. Le Guin's theory of carrier bag, which reframes the story of human origin by redefining technology as a cultural carrier bag rather than a weapon of domination, Ada Popovic imagines the first tool that humans used was a basket, rather than a spear.

Basketology is a project that explores the interweaving, non-dominating, and non-linear ways of narrating stories and (re)thinking about developments of society and technology. Bringing in perspectives such as collaboration rather than competition, non-teleological time, and non-binary thinking and narrating, this project questions the myth of progress and techno-utopia, and instead it suggests "circulatory, serendipity, and simultaneity", which is a critical perspective in reflecting on the relationship between human-non human, and that between human and technology. However, the installation itself can be more engaging, for instance, by inviting visitors to make baskets together while listening to the podcasts or chatting about basketology.

<https://kabk.github.io/go-theses-21-ada-popovic/>

Adriana Navarro Villacampa - *The Hashtag as a Weapon*

Graphic Design - no graduation 2021 available <https://kabk.github.io/go-theses-21-adriana-nv/>

Adriana Navarro Villacampa's work contributes to an urgent awareness of the mechanisms of social media, and functions as activism. *The Hashtag as a Weapon* contributes to develop awareness and critical thinking among younger generations, the research and diagrams communicate the power of hashtags as tools with subversive and destructive power. With this analysis and the twitter format, *The Hashtag as a Weapon* presents valuable knowledge in a format adequate to social media users, those who need to be more aware of the impact of their choices and the consequences of their behaviours, including the use of hashtags. Adriana Navarro Villacampa's work encourages social empowerment through digital literacy.

Soyun Park – *Wunderkammer 10.0*

Graphic Design - <http://graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/soyun-park>

Wunderkammer 10.0 takes the world, digital and analogue, past, present and future as its object, interpreted by an personified AI commenting its state. Comments are both poetic and melancholic, telling us about the imbalance in access to information, damage done to the ecology and the other side of economic growth. However fictitious, the essayistic way the story takes one through this world made of endless fast changing fragments of cities and man made infrastructure taken from google maps makes you realise the dead-end logic of elements of technological societies. Wunderkammer 10.0 shows us in a highly captivating way what narration and speculation can do to make us understand possible future scenarios as effects of present choices.

MA

Natalia Sliwinska – *Beyond Taxonomic Narratives (winner masters)*

Non Linear Narrative - <http://graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/natalia-sliwinska>

Natalia Śliwińska's project digs into the often untold herstories behind the taxonomic name of one plant in Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden--*Carludovica Palmata*, and the panama hats that were made of this plant. Through archival research and interviews, Śliwińska discovers the Dutch colonial history in Suriname in which the so-called "fallen women"/ single mothers were kept inside a Braiding School based in Mariapatronaat Catholic institution in Paramaribo to make panama hats, which was a way of mental-physical disciplining and labour exploitation. By weaving together personal and institutional narratives, *Beyond Taxonomic Narratives* challenges the authority and neutrality of taxonomy and scientific knowledge, and the underpinning archives, and reframes this form of knowledge production as a narrative that needs to be questioned.

Farah Rahman – *Sensing Willow*

ArtScience - <https://graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/farah-rahman>

Farah Rahman's work offers a close approach to the relation to the non-human and other forms of listening. Experimenting with the transmission of sounds on solids, it invites us to imagine the

experience of hearing and the sensorial experience of other species. The field recordings from contact, produce a soundscape of bark texture and of silence, of the brief simulacrum of the world without humans during lockdown. By coming in physical contact with the wooden logs, subtly forcing the participants to come closer, to relate and to pay attention to the sound and the texture of the tree as the other. The subtle gestures of Sensing Willow are sobering and bring us closer to a post-anthropocentric turn as the start for an ethics of sustainability.

Pablo Perez Quartenoud – *from odds and ends*

Non Linear Narrative - <http://graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/pablo-perez-quartenoud>

What is the value of our actions, is a recurring question in our lives, in society and in history. The question is especially urgent in current times where human action has caused a pandemic resulting in work, contemporary digital labor, being confined to endless meetings behind our screens, as opposed to the communards and labor migrants moving in and out of Switzerland at the time. *from odds and ends* takes us along the actions of the Paris Commune, the forced migration the communards had to undertake and that of other economic migrants in the European region. It takes us along the value of work, creativity and of activism and protest, yet simultaneously evoking questions about similar conditions in our own epoch.