

# Artificial Lives



William Merritt Chase. *The Inner Studio, Tenth Street*. 1882. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Gift of the Virginia Steele Scott Foundation.

BACKGROUND IMAGE

Computer room, with computers, for the 150-foot tower telescope, Mount Wilson Observatory. Circa 1974. Image courtesy of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science Collection at The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

## *A Virtual Conference at The Huntington Library*

**JANUARY 21-22, 2021**

This multidisciplinary conference explores the conjunction of a range of forces that are shaping the contemporary production of life and of the lifeworld. The development of new medical technologies, the emergence of new forms of digital communication, and the dawning of climate emergency have produced novel forms of artificial life and generated radical new means of imagining what life itself might be. The program will bring together creative practitioners, critics, and theorists to ask what futures these artificial lives might portend, and how we might draw from our various archives—literary, visual, medical, historical—so that we might prepare for them.

**All times are PST.**

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

#### 8:00 Welcome

Steve Hindle, The Huntington

#### Opening Remarks

Sherryl Vint, University of California, Riverside (Convener)  
Peter Boxall, University of Sussex (Convener)

#### 8:15 Session 1 Artifice as Concept

Samantha Frost, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
"The life by which I live': Reconfiguring the Relationship between Body and Environment"

Syros Papapetros, Princeton University  
"Building Lives: Shelter, Tool, and Automatism in Frederick Kiesler's Magic Architecture"

Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, University of Southern California  
"Aesthetic Architectures of the Flesh"

#### 9:45 Break

#### 10:15 Session 2 Human-Machine Assemblages

N. Katherine Hayles, Duke University  
"How to Create an Artificial Subjectivity: From Robot Dog to Robot Warrior in Annalee Nemitz's *Autonomous*"

Jennifer Rhee, Virginia Commonwealth University  
"Drone Warfare, Drone Art, and the Perils of Algorithmic Identification"

Kalindi Vora, University of California, Davis  
"Feminist AI"

#### 11:45 Closing Remarks

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

#### 8:00 Opening Remarks

Sherryl Vint, University of California, Riverside (Convener)  
Peter Boxall, University of Sussex (Convener)

#### 8:15 Session 3 Interspecies Entanglements

Lesley A. Sharp, Columbia University  
"The Mechanized Calf: Scientific Artifice and Bovine Alterities"

Lorenzo Servitje, Lehigh University  
"The Not-So-Strange Afterlife of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in Antibiotic Discourse"

David Hering, University of Liverpool  
"The Corporate Thylacine: Creating Fictions of Extinction and Artificial Resurrection"

#### 9:45 Break

#### 10:15 Plenary Panel Discussion

Moderators: Sherryl Vint and Peter Boxall  
All previous speakers are panelists

#### 11:45 Closing Remarks

### THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA 91108

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**The Dibner History of Science Program at The Huntington**

**Conference registration by reservation only.**

**Conference will be take place via Zoom.**

**Please visit [huntington.org/artificial-lives](http://huntington.org/artificial-lives) for ticket information.**

**Conference link and papers will be circulated to those who register.**