Mechanisms

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Zarouhie Abdalian, Terry Atkinson, Lutz Bacher,
Eva Barto, Neil Beloufa, Patricia L. Boyd, Jay
DeFeo, Trisha Donnelly, Harun Farocki, Richard
Hamilton, Aaron Flint Jamison, Jacob Kassay,
Garry Neill Kennedy, Louise Lawler, Park McArthur,
Jean-Luc Moulene, Pope.L, Charlotte Posenenske,
Cameron Rowland, and Danh Vo.

Opening reception: Thursday, October 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

These days, machines don't look much like machines.
Many aren't even called machines. Heavy and greasy
machinery is absent from the smooth surfaces of
digital interfaces and the weightlessness of cloud
computing. Tool, appliance, device, apparatus,
instrument, computer, hardware, software, program,
server, processor, microchip, setting, algorithm,
infrastructure, system, logistic, protocol, parameter,
--the terms for today's machines accumulate, evolve,
and overlap.

Machines are everywhere but seem to be nowhere. They
are part of the air we breathe, overseeing our lives
and our bodies, from the way we communicate and con-
sume to how we trade and how we travel. Some are ob-
jects or devices, but others are systems and infra-
structures--a machine can be a thing as well as a
method for organizing things.

Machines, like all tools, have their agendas. They
embody and enforce specific regimes. They have trained
us to embrace and enjoy a life of seamless connect-
ivity and complete flexibility. They have taught us to
value effeciency and standardization. They live within
the bloodstream of our subjectivities, our policies,
and our politics.

Art can't stop the machine. Nothing can. Still, art
can challenge the values that are favored by machines.
The works in this exhibition test existing systems
with inefficient mechanisms, impossible tools, and
elaborate protocols that misalign outputs from their
inputs.

(More information coming soon)

(credit: Garry Neill Kennedy, "The Letter E," 1980-2017)