



Control Shift ~ Feeling Machines

Open call for UK based artists
Submit proposals [via this form](#)
by Friday 9th September, 23:59 UK time

Context

This year's Control Shift theme is *Feeling Machines*, where we are exploring how digital technologies intertwine with the most intimate aspects of our lives. The programme takes a deep dive into the sticky, messy, fluffy ways that we live our lives within the binary logics of digital machines.

In a time when phone apps define who our friends and lovers are, when AI have become artists, and algorithms decide the music that moves us we ask what it *feel/s* like to *feel/* with machines. How often do we stop and question our relationships with machines? How much are we aware of the technologies sensing our bodies? What kind of emotions do scrolling through our social media feeds evoke? Are we craving touch outside our online grids or longing for our phones to fit differently against our skin?

Through *Feeling Machines* we will invite audiences to playfully explore these questions through a programme of workshops, artworks and gatherings in Bristol and online, running through October 2022 - April 2023.

Call Out

We are inviting UK based artists, designers, performers, activists, coders, makers, researchers, facilitators, or creative technologists whose work relates to *Feeling Machines* to submit proposals for workshops, artworks or performances...what would you make?

Who are we looking for

We are based in Bristol, and particularly welcome applications from South West or South Wales based artists. We encourage applications from those currently

underrepresented in computational arts, including working class people, people of colour, LGBTQ+ and disabled people.

What we are looking for

We are looking for playful works that are both critical and accessible, and that relate to the *Feeling Machines* theme. Work proposed could:

- ～ question the materiality of computing
- ～ playfully reimagine our relationship with machines
- ～ subvert abstract technological processes
- ～ challenge normative assumptions
- ～ speculate on technological futures
- ～ decolonise digital technology
- ～ create safe spaces to experiment and fail
- ～ illuminate who is making technological design decisions

You can propose artworks in any medium, including: Workshops / Socially engaged work / Code based art / e-textiles / Embedded electronics / Performance / Sound / Installation / Video / AR / VR / Mixed reality experiences / Mobile experiences / Sculpture / Data / Soft robotics

Where the work will be presented

The selected work will be presented between October 2022 - April 2023, as part of a programme of national and international artist-led workshops, installations and performance.

Works will be presented online and/or in person at our partner venues across Bristol ([Bricks](#), [Arnolfini](#), [Watershed](#), [KWMC](#)). We can support proposals to site work in these venues, other non-arts spaces and/or online.

What we can offer

- ～ Artist fees between £250-£1,000 depending on the scale of the work
- ～ Additional materials and expenses budget
- ～ Access bursaries
- ～ Production and producer support
- ～ Opportunity to be part of the growing Control Shift community

How to apply

To apply, submit a proposal with this form <https://forms.gle/HFKgyTuqk9Nejjt76> by **Friday 9th September 2022, 23:59 UK time.**

If you have any access needs that require you to submit your proposal in another format, please email control.shift.network@gmail.com and we can help you find a suitable option.

Application process

We are committed to managing a fair and equitable selection process. All applications will be assessed by a panel according to the same criteria, and submitting in a different format will not affect your chances of being selected.

Selection criteria

Our selection panel brings a range of expertise and perspectives and we will assess each application on how well the proposals address the following questions:

- ～ How does the proposal relate to the theme?
- ～ Is the proposal bringing an approach to technology that is critical and playful?
- ～ Has people's experience and access to the work been well considered?
- ～ How feasible and achievable is the proposal?

Key dates

9 September - deadline for submissions

30 September - artists notified

October 2022 to April 2023 - Feeling Machines programme

About Control Shift

We develop programmes of computational arts that question and celebrate the messy spaces in-between humans, nature and machines. Bringing people together to re-imagine our relationships with technology through dialogue and arts. Visit our website www.control-shift.network to find out more.

Control Shift is funded by Arts Council England, Bristol+Bath Creative R&D, University of the West England, University of Bath, Knowle West Media Centre, Watershed and Pervasive Media Studio. It is supported by Bricks and Arnolfini.

Contact

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please email us control.shift.network@gmail.com

