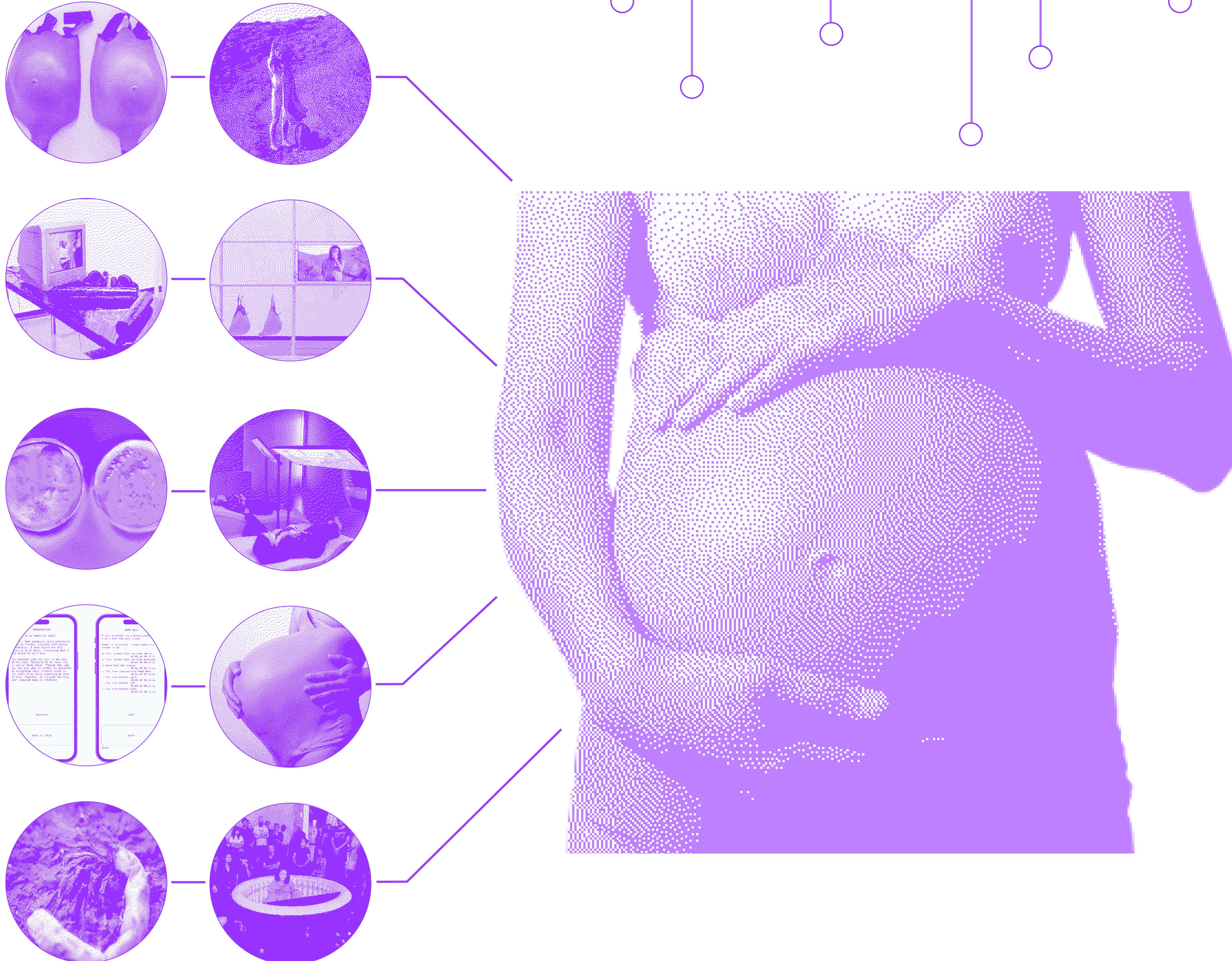


# Surrogate

Surrogate is a long-form performance by Lauren Lee McCarthy in which she offered herself as a remote, real-time surrogate. Using custom-designed technology, she invited potential parents to direct her daily actions, emotions, and bodily routines, replicating the structure and duration of a pregnancy. The goal was to explore how care, control, and intimacy are shaped by digital systems, especially within medical and maternal contexts. The performance was ultimately interrupted by institutional constraints, but the project continued through short films, installations, and live reenactments. Surrogate raises critical questions about autonomy, consent, and what it means to love or be loved under technological supervision.

## Gallery

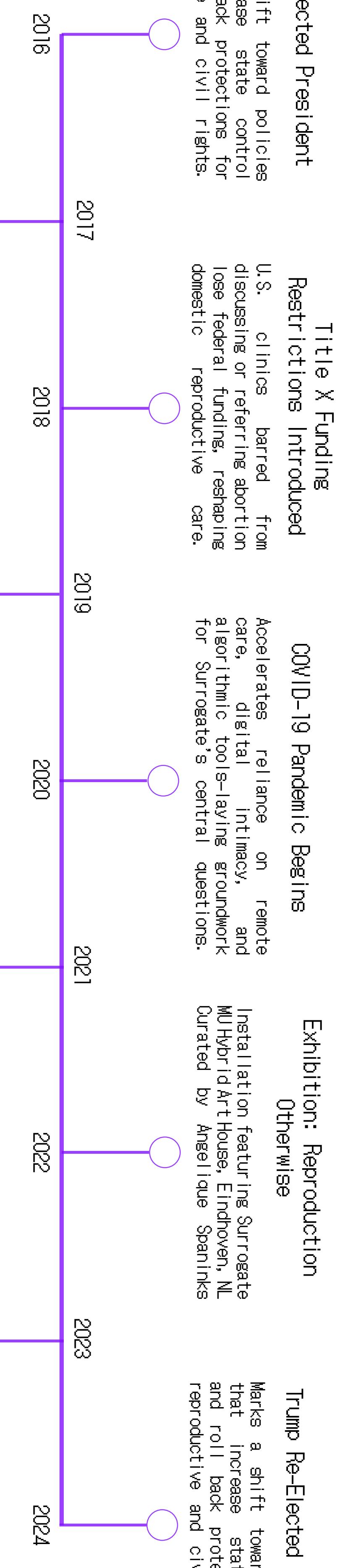


## More About the Piece

The full Surrogate exhibition includes works like Womb Walk and Training Set, which use silicone-based forms to visualize the physical and biological dimensions of pregnancy, such as the pregnant belly and cellular structures. These sculptural pieces ground the project in material reality, counterbalancing the digital mediation of the original performance. Exhibitions like Data Relations and Reproduction Otherwise contextualize the work within broader questions of autonomy and control, asking how far we are willing to surrender our bodies to technological systems. Together, the pieces extend Surrogate into a layered examination of care, consent, and the future of embodied life.

## Who is Lauren Lee McCarthy?

Lauren Lee McCarthy is an artist and educator whose work explores the social dimensions of automation, surveillance, and algorithmic life. Through performance, software, installation, and interactive experiences, she examines how systems of control shape our behaviors and relationships. McCarthy is the creator of p5.js and a Professor at UCLA Design Media Arts, committed to accessibility and equity in tech and art. Her critically acclaimed works, including SOMEONE and LAUREN, invite audiences to confront the intimate entanglements between humans and machines.



## Timeline