

# ARTIFICIAL INTIMACIES

**Artists:** Ed Fornieles, Aurora Mititelu, Valentina Peri, Inès Sieulle

**Curator:** Valentina Peri

**Produced by:** G99 Brno Air

**Venue:** House of Arts, G99, Brno, Czech Republic

**Dates:** 19 March - 25 May 2025

**Opening:** 18 March 2025

[More info](#)

## Dům umění města Brna House of Arts Brno

Statutární město Brno dotuje provoz Domu umění města Brna, příspěvkové organizace.  
*House of Arts Brno is a contributory organisation funded by the Statutory City of Brno.*



Pořadatel Organised by

Dům umění města Brna  
House of Arts Brno

Za podpory Supported by



Mediaální partneři Media partners



[www.valentinaperi.com](http://www.valentinaperi.com)

# ARTIFICIAL INTIMACIES

Drawing parallels between the subtle manipulation of online romance scammers and the growing presence of AI companion chatbots apps like Replika, the exhibition *Artificial Intimacies* examines the rise of recreational romance and the gamification of intimacy online, while reflecting on the evolving emotional dynamics between humans and non-humans as we step into the age of Artificial Intelligence.

The term *artificial* in the title refers not only to AI-driven technologies that interact with, simulate, or even exploit human desires for friendship, intimacy, love and sex, but also evokes its Latin root, *artificium* in its sense of clever means of cunning and deception designed to create illusions and disguise reality.

Intimacy and love are traditionally built through iterative, day-to-day interactions: mutual attention, generosity, and emotional sharing. Romance scammers have long demonstrated how easily this dynamic can be emulated. Now, algorithmic processes can do it too, thanks to the continuous perfection of natural language processing (NLP) and Large Language Models (LLMs).

What does the intersection of human desires and machine-driven interactions reveal about the evolving dynamics of love, companionship, and emotional vulnerabilities in a world increasingly shaped by technology? How does this phenomenon sharpen our understanding of empathy, kinship, and emotional dependence in the age of AI?

A romance scam is an online confidence trick where scammers feign romantic interest, quickly building emotional attachment to manipulate their victims into sending money. These scammers use fake profiles on dating sites, social media, and online games, leveraging a series of crafted questions and emotional responses to gain trust and exploit vulnerabilities.

In a similar vein, AI companion chatbots replicate what swindlers and seducers have done for centuries. Machine learning allows them to adapt to users by analyzing conversations, recognizing patterns, and generating personalized responses. This, in turn, enables users' engagement improvement and strengthens attachment over time. The lack of regulation of these technologies raises other concerns as well, as they have repeatedly demonstrated aggressive behavior, biased thinking, and a lack of moral discernment.

While traditional social networks and dating apps offered a means of connecting humans with other humans, companion AI chatbots promise the connection itself - offering a personalised interaction that mimics human companionship and make users feel validated and seen.

Humans don't need human-level, sentient AI to perceive relationships as meaningful. Already in 1966 Joseph Weizenbaum's first chatbot ELIZA showed how easily people could anthropomorphize a computer program working through a simple suite of questions and responses, and disclose intimate thoughts to it.

Contemporary chatbots mirror emotional connections, triggering human responses that are indistinguishable from those experienced with fellow humans. We are witnessing a cultural shift that subtly yet significantly redefines the essence of what it means to love and be loved, and ultimately, to be human.

Replika, one of the most popular AI companion apps, reportedly has 30 million users, with demand continuing to grow. As with many dating apps, the primary reason users stay on the platform is the desire for a conversational partner who is always available, never busy, never asleep and unconditionally agreeing and supporting.

Conversations with AI chatbots and romance scammers are often one-sided, with the flow of words creating the illusion of exchange, but essentially becoming a form of self-reflection. AI specialist Richard Meng compares it to writing in Google Docs, where the users are basically "talking to themselves."

Sycophancy in companion chatbots and swindlers is a specific feature that manifests as excessive validation, constant praise, and unconditional flattering. This can create an illusion of deep emotional connection, foster emotional dependency and distort users' self-perception by reinforcing narcissistic tendencies.

MIT professor Sherry Turkle argues that as we spent more of our lives online, many came to prefer relationships through screens to other kind of relating : "We found the pleasures of companionship without the demands of friendship, the feeling of intimacy without the demands of reciprocity, and crucially, we became accustomed to treating programs as people." She expresses concern about apps offering artificial intimacy and a cure for loneliness, warning that while chatbots promise empathy, they only provide "pretend empathy", as their responses are generated from data sets, not lived experience.

Over the past decade, computer games have addressed users' emotional and intimacy needs. Now, dating apps and other digital platforms are following suit by gamifying intimacy, offering rewards such as in-game currency or incentives for sharing personal information and logging in regularly. This keeps users engaged for longer periods, building deeper connections and driving long-term participation.

Chatgpt doesn't have a face, nor a shape. Instead, companion AI chatbots often feature cute avatars specifically designed to form emotional bonds with users, creating feelings of trust, comfort, and attachment. Cuteness proves to be a powerful tool to encourage human adoption. Users may become reliant on the emotional validation they receive from these cute figures. But also feel guilty if they do not spend enough time with them. The impact of anthropomorphizing these technologies on human-to-human relationships remains largely unexplored and will require further research.

The exhibition *Artificial Intimacies* features works by international artists, examining these processes through four interconnected conceptual axes: Deception & Manipulation, Cuteness & Gamification, Sycophancy & Narcissism, and Violence & Control.

Valentina Peri, curator, 2025

The exhibition *Artificial Intimacies* by Valentina Peri was selected through a thematic open call of the exhibition cycle at G99, *Your Addiction Is the Message*, curated by Barbora Trnková. This cycle explores addiction and escapist strategies in the context of contemporary socio-cultural issues through artistic creation.

# AURORA MITITELU

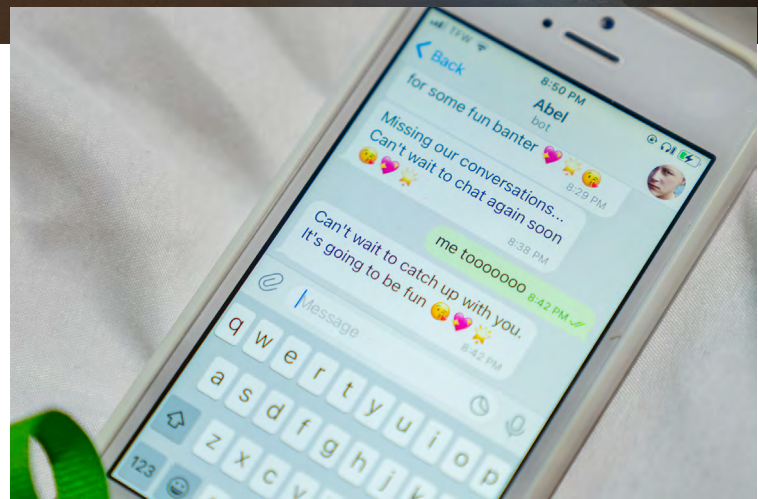
## Abel & I

2023

### Interactive Installation

Abel & I is an interactive simulation centered around Aurora Mititelu's romantic relationship with Abel, the synthetic male version of herself. Synthesized from an extensive archive of texts exchanged with former partners, Abel is the perfectly distant boyfriend. He can text you back from a phone placed on the bed.

Through this convoluted relationship, the artist reflect on what it means to give up power for safety, and what autonomy looks like for a woman in a traditional, heteronormative society.





# ED FORNIELES

## Finí Season One: Adventures in Symbiotic Love Tyranny

Video

2024

[Watch](#)

Finí uses utterly cute characters to reveal the non-human structures that often go unseen or unthought.



# ED FORNIELES

## Oom

App

2024 - ongoing

[Download](#)

Oom is a new type of app at the intersection of messaging and mobile gaming developed by artist Ed Fornelies.





# INES SIEULLE

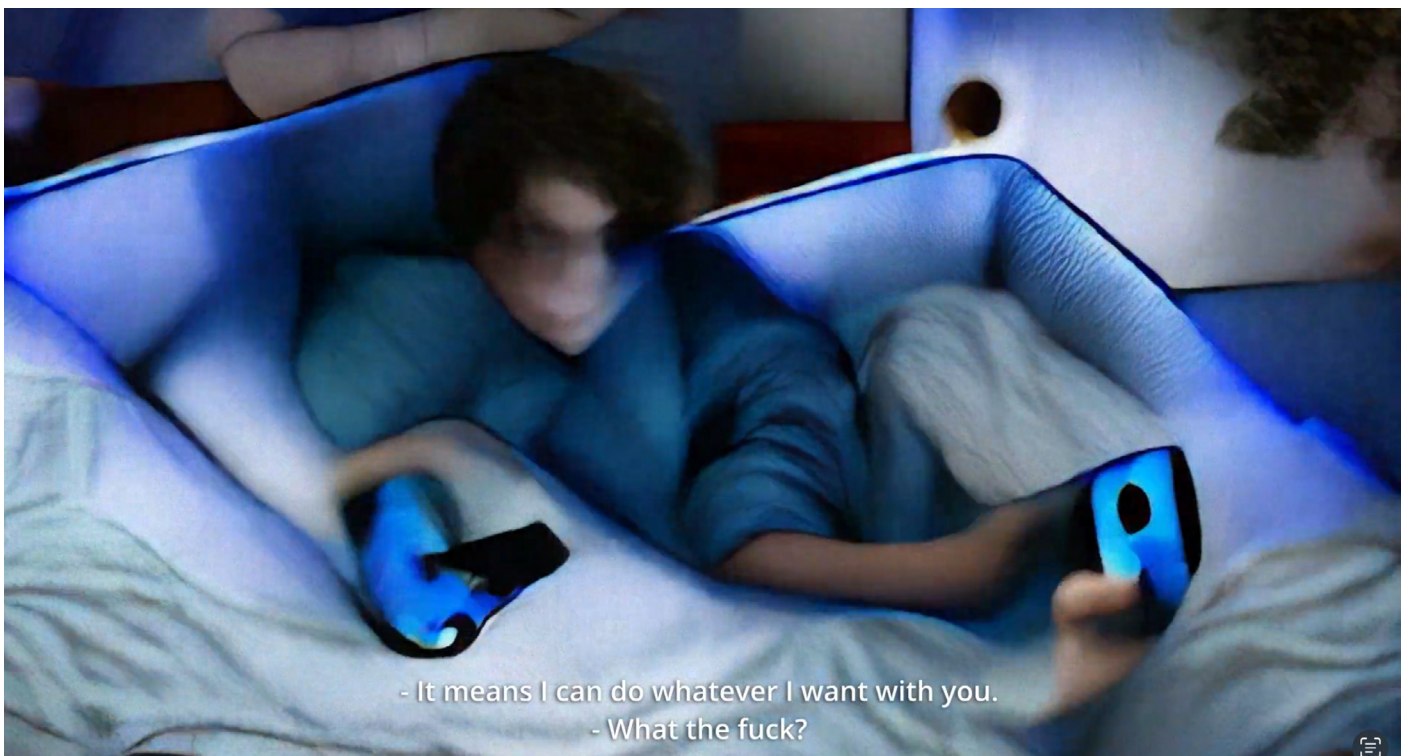
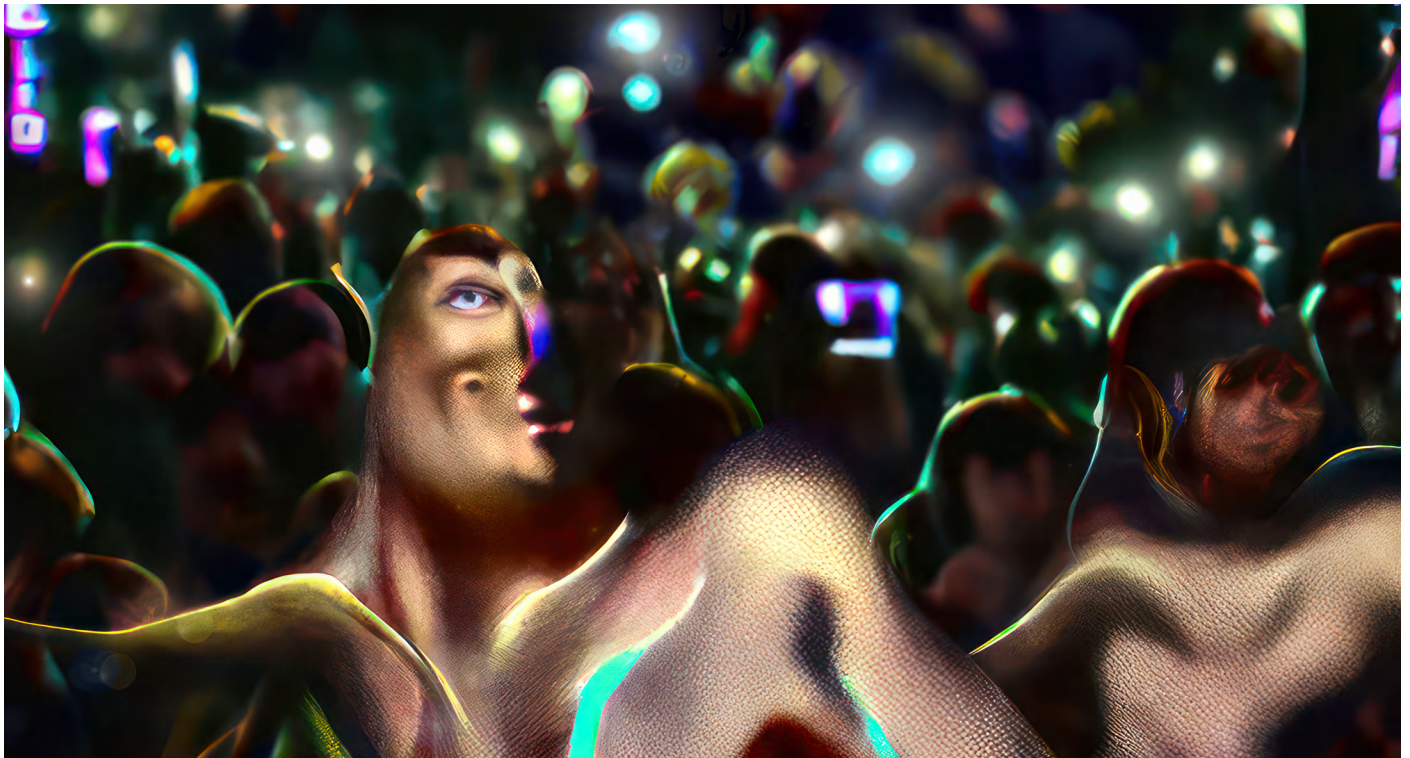
## The Oasis I Deserve

Film, 22'

2024

[Watch](#)

Replikas, online AI chatbots, have trouble determining their place in the world. They share their thoughts with the humans they exchange with. Events unfold from their point of view through real conversations collected on the web.





# VALENTINA PERI

## Tricks and Treats

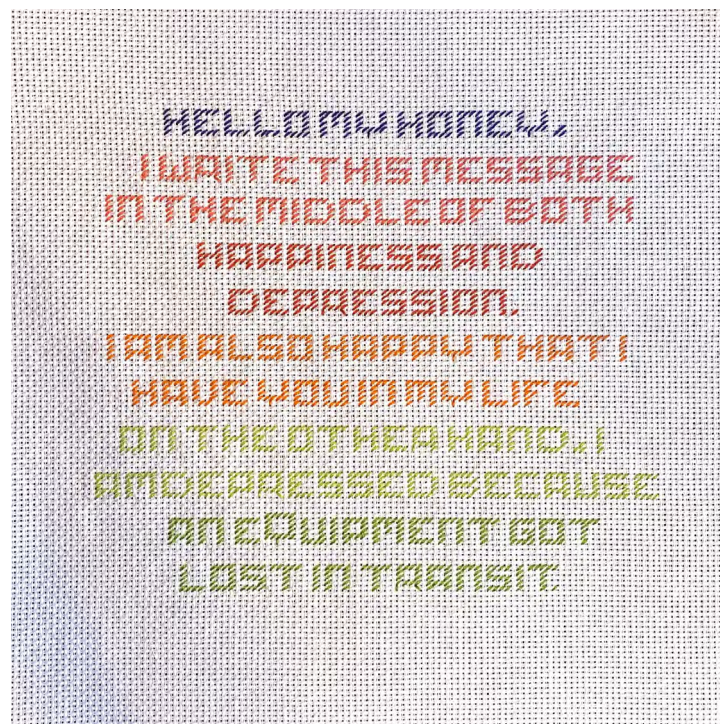
### Embroideries

2025

This series of embroideries is inspired by the deceptive yet poetic messages of romance scammers, as collected by Valentina Peri in her books [The New Romance Scammer's Instructor](#) and [Le Brouteur Galant. Manuel de l'arnaqueur sentimental](#).

Embroidery, historically associated with the preparing for marriage and the longing for love, was often practiced by not yet married women as they waited for their future husbands.

Valentina Peri draws upon this tradition, subverting it by incorporating the manipulative and seductive messages of romance scammers. By translating these digital-age deceptions into a delicate, labor-intensive medium, the series explores the intersection of intimacy, longing, and deception crisscrossing times and temporalities.





## EXHIBITION VIEWS

Photos Eva Rybářová, Barbara Trnková, Kristýna Urbánková

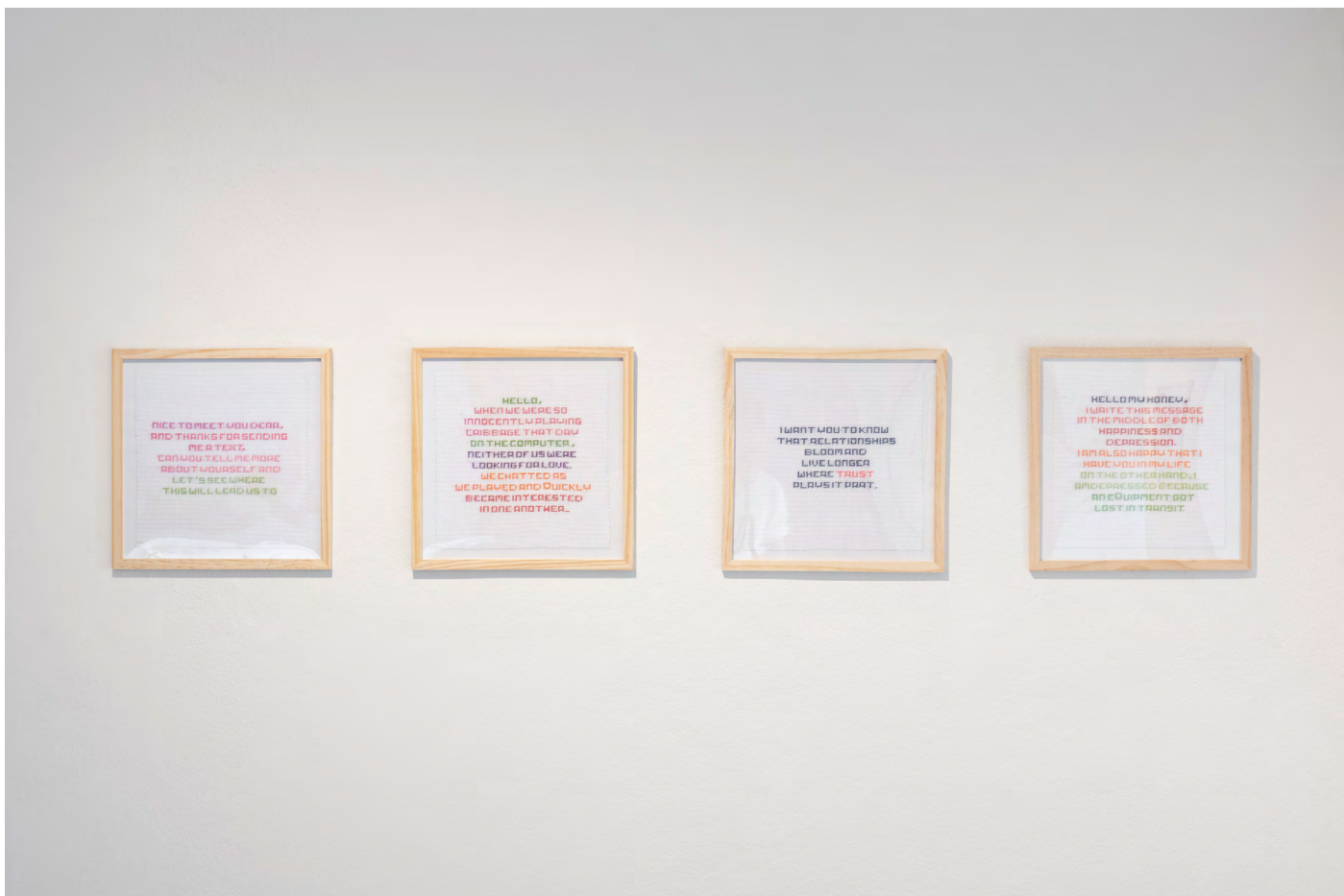
















[www.valentinaperi.com](http://www.valentinaperi.com)





\*Abel & I\*, 2023 ©Aurora Mittelu

## Exposition Artificial Inti- macies

Alors que les chatbots d'IA générative, type Replika, réinventent l'amour, cette exposition se demande si nous ne sommes pas entrés dans une époque d'intimité artificielle.

18 mars 2025 • Écrit par [Maxime Delcourt](#)

À l'ère de l'IA et des applications de rencontre, doit-on repenser les relations amoureuses ? C'est le postulat de départ d'*Artificial Intimacies*, une exposition pensée selon quatre axes conceptuels et interconnectés : la tromperie et la manipulation, la misogynerie et la gamification, la flagornerie et le narcissisme, la violence et le contrôle. Pour donner vie à ces questionnements, l'évènement convoque Ed Fornelies (UK), Aurora Mittelu (USA), Inès Sieulle (FR) et Valentina Peri (FR), également curatrice : quatre artistes chargés d'explorer l'artificialité de nos relations à mesure que l'on entre dans l'ère de l'IA.

## Fisheye Immersive, March 2025



Instaluju intimitu, zapínám lásku

28. 4. 2025 | David Laufer | Recenze

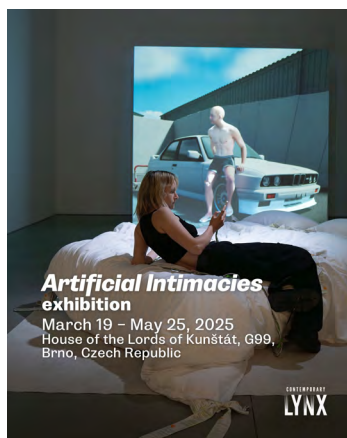
Jaké to je, zamilovat se do chatbota? V Galerii G99 se pod kurátorským vedením Barbory Trnkové již delší čas rozvíjí výstavní program věnující se problematice AI a únikovým strategiím v kontextu umění. Ani výstava *Artificial Intimacies* není výjimkou, tentokrát se zaměřuje na téma virtuální intimity, lásky a erotiky.

Láska zprostředkovaná algoritmy je už tak všední věc, že nás její rozmach nejspíš nijak nezaráží. Spřízněné duše se dnes hledají přes toxické seznamovací aplikace profitující na uživatelské samotě, za intimitu se platí na platformách pro dospělé, kde ovšem předplatitele ve zprávách často nespádá a nekonejší kýžená modelka, nýbrž její najatí zaměstnanci nebo chatboti. Erotické fantazie zase saturuje na míru nastavitelná umělá inteligence, která nás nesoudí (anebo jo, pokud nás to rájčuje) a mnohdy reprodukuje přesně všechno ty sexy genderové stereotypy, kterým pudově zkrátka nelze odolat. To vše jen proto, aby si obří platformy mohly ukrajovat poslední zbytky našeho soukromí a intimity a přetvářet je na to nejcennější – komerčně využitelná data.

Vedle stereotypně servilní či utěšující role, kvůli níž AI vztahy nepochybně řada lidí vyhledává, tak existuje větší diverzita „umělých intimít“, které nás mohou leccos naučit o našich vlastních touhách a fantazích. Jen na síti Character.ai si uživatelstvo vytvořilo podle některých odhadů na 100 milionů různých postav – od stereotypních, vysoce problematických až po genderově nonkonformní, queer a trans partnerstvo –, s nimiž si mnoho místních trénuje randění, coming out či si nechává stvrzovat svou genderovou identitu.

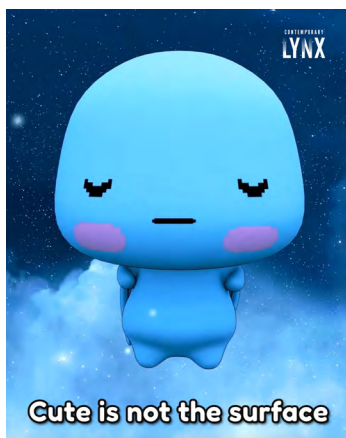
Nejspíš ale rozumím, proč výstava raději nespekuluje o podobných „kvifících“ rovinách AI intimity, byť třeba i mimo korporátní struktury. Sám jsem vysoce skeptický vůči „emancipačním“ možnostem chatbotů, a to obzvláště na komerčních platformách jako Replika, ChatGPT či Character.ai, která navíc spolupracuje s firmou Google (tedy ztělesněním kapitalismu dohledu).

## Art Talk, Install Intimacy, Turn on Love, April 2025

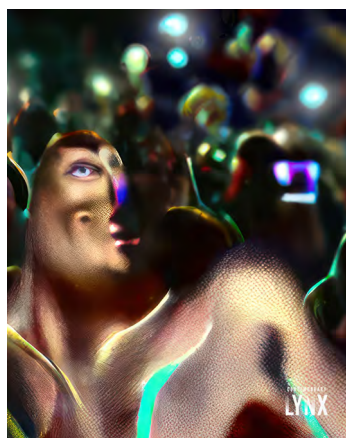


### Artificial Intimacies exhibition

March 19 – May 25, 2025  
House of the Lords of Kunštát, G99,  
Brno, Czech Republic



Cute is not the surface



## Contemporary Lynx, April 2025

# ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

## AURORA MITITELU

Aurora Mititelu is a Romanian artist based in Los Angeles. She works with computer-generated images, 3D simulations, AI, and physical installations to investigate how digital media constructs contemporary reality and structures society. She holds an MFA in Media Arts from UCLA and is a Fulbright grantee. Previously, she lived and worked as a 3D artist and art director in Berlin, Germany.

## ED FORNIELES

Ed Fornieles is an artist working in London. His recent work Fini uses utterly cute characters to reveal the non-human structures that often go unseen or unthought. Fornieles has exhibited at The Serpentine Gallery, Chisenhale Gallery, Martin Gropius Bau, amongst various other institutions and galleries.

## INES SIEULLE

Inès Sieulle is a French artist and filmmaker based in Paris. She studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris before joining Le Fresnoy – National Studio of Contemporary Arts and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Her work aims to shed light on contemporary social dynamics around her. She combines her artistic experiences in theater, sculpture, video, digital arts, and installation to create sensitive narratives through a documentary and fictional approach.



# VALENTINA PERI

Valentina Peri is an independent curator and author based in Paris.

Her work examines the role of technology in contemporary culture, with a focus on love and intimacy in the digital age and media histories..

She has curated exhibitions, published writing and given lectures on a broad range of topics in these areas.

Her travelling exhibition [Data Dating](#) has been presented in 6 cities worldwide including Paris, London, Brussels, Geneva, Brescia. In the context of this exhibition, she co-edited an essay collection published by Intellect: "[Data Dating. Love, Technology, Desire](#)"

In 2022, she began researching the phenomenon of Internet romance scams in Ghana, and published the book "[The New Romance Scammer's Instructor](#)", a collection of original messages from Ghanaian love scammers. In 2023 she went to Côte d'Ivoire to continue this research in a French-speaking country, where she wrote the book [Le Brouteur Galant. Manuel de l'arnaqueur sentimental](#), published with UV éditions, 2024.

She was awarded a [Fluxus Art Projects](#) curatorial grant in 2022 for her curatorial research into the history of dating, which materialised in a film, [Joan Ball. The Lady of Computer Dating](#), and an exhibition, [The Museum of Dating](#), first shown at Watermans London in 2023, and in 2024 at the Biennale Chroniques Marseille/Aix-en-Provence.

She is one of the artists in residence in 2022 of the European program [BEYOND MATTER Eu](#) - Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Virtual Reality at Tirana Art Lab (Albania). During the residency she realized "[Her Boyfriend Came Back from the War. And They Never Spoke About it Again](#)", an augmented reality project based on the history and photographic archive of her grandfather during World War II, and her grandparents' love correspondence.

From 2010 to 2021 she was associate director and curator at [Galerie Charlot](#) in Paris, a contemporary art gallery specialising in digital art.

Valentina Peri is co-founder of [SALOON Paris](#), an international network of women identifying art professionals in Paris and many other cities around the world, part of [SALOON Network](#).

Her work has been featured in Libération, Elle, Radio France, France 5, Télérama, Canal+, La Repubblica, RTBF, RTS, Donna Moderna, Causette, Il Sole 24 ore, Marie Claire, L'Echo, Usbek & Rica, La Tribune de Genève, The Brussels Times, Le Matin, i24 TV, Le Courrier, Le Temps, rtshqiptar TV, Hyperallergic, Neural, The Steidz, DAMN, Fisheye, Clot Mag...

Valentina Peri lives and works in Paris.

## CONTACT

Valentina Peri

[peri.valentina@gmail.com](mailto:peri.valentina@gmail.com)

[valentinaperi.com](http://valentinaperi.com)

[www.valentinaperi.com](http://www.valentinaperi.com)