

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Press office



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## Robot Dreams

### Space02, Kunsthaus Graz

Duration: 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2010 – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011

Opening: 6pm, 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2010

Curators: Katrin Bucher Trantow, Peter Pakesch, Andres Pardey, Roland Wetzel

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Robots are no longer confined to the shopfloor or are complex creatures in the pages of SF fiction. They have invaded our homes, are found in the water and the air, make artificial limbs work better, help autistic children and survey land.

The *Robot Dreams* exhibition is the second exhibition organized jointly by the Kunsthaus and the Jean Tinguely Museum in Basel. After the successful *Moving Parts* exhibition on contemporary kinetics in 2004, the present show ventures into the realms of artificial intelligence. It looks into the political, social and artistic implications of new ideas to do with what used to be considered uncomplaining slave labour for mankind, and invited ten or so artists to develop projects specially for the exhibition.

The core issues are the interaction of man and machine, the feedback of recent literature in the field of artificial intelligence on the perception of human behaviour and the use of robots in everyday life. What is still considered utopia and even alarming today might be installed as household equipment tomorrow. Communication with the fridge, self-steering vacuum cleaners or smart seating electronics in cars are already reality, just like nano-robots for medical use and software that learns from its mistakes and is capable of adjusting flexibly according to the situation.

The title of the exhibition is taken from the short story of that name written by biochemist and prolific SF author Isaac Asimov. In the story, the robot Elvex has to be destroyed because it dreams of planning a rebellion and begins to flout the Three Laws making it irrevocably subject to mankind.

With Thomas Baumann (AUT), John Bock (GER), Kirsty Boyle (Aus), Yan Duyvendak (CH), Jessica Field (CAN), Sibylle Hauert & Daniel Reichmuth (CH), Jakob Scheid (AUT), Jon Kessler (USA), Ed Kienholz & Nancy Reddin Kienholz (USA), Richard Kriesche (AUT), Luc Mattenberger (CH), Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer (AUT/FRA), Nam June Paik (JPN), Niki Passath (AUT), Walter Pichler (AUT), \_R&Sie(n)\_ (architect)/François Roche with Stephan Henrich (FRA), Stelarc (Aus), Virgil Widrich (AUT) et al.

At the Styrian Armoury, Thomas Baumann's intervention *Antiroboter Exemplarisch, 2010* will mingle with the objects of this unique collection of armour for the duration of the exhibition, acknowledging kinship with these early relatives of robots.

The concept of robots (from the Czech word for worker or slave) was invented by Josef and Karel Čapek in the early 20th-century SF work *RUR*, 1920.

A catalogue with texts by Isaac Asimov, Wenzel Mracek, Jutta Weber, Lilian Pfaff, Joachim Schätz, Manuela Kraft and the curators Katrin Bucher Trantow, Peter Pakesch, Andres Pardey, and Roland Wetzel accompanies the exhibition (Kehrer Verlag € 36,00).