

***Participatory Aesthetics of Information Ethics.***

**Artwork and workshop by Paolo Cirio at MozFest, Ravensbourne College, London, October 27-29, 2017.**

**A commission by the departments of learning of V&A and Tate museums for Mozilla Foundation.**

The so-called information revolution brings us an increasing number of pressing ethical issues. Artists can be particularly sensitive to these issues and they question ethics by proposing and challenging perceptions and scenarios beyond common understanding. This process can become part of the work of art through participants commenting and responding to the artist's propositions.

As an Internet artist and activist, Paolo Cirio has been working for over a decade with online privacy, fake news, piracy, algorithms, big data, leaks, and hacking. He explores boundaries and consequences of reconfiguring, exposing, and creating social relations within the risks of challenging institutions and making compromises for artistic and social agendas.

Currently, Paolo Cirio is working on a reflection of the complexity of information ethics and how central it is today. He is interested in how aesthetics can navigate the uncertain and unjust social conditions produced by information systems. He examines liability of algorithms, responsibility in anonymous networks, exploitation of shared content and labor, censorship on social media, freedom of speech used to harass, public shaming to condemn, hacking to protest or leak, and micro-targeting for political campaigning. In order to inspire inquiry and policy making, the artist questions what can be justified and sacrificed to balance freedom, empathy, justice, and accountability.

Paolo Cirio's artwork at MozFest presents a set of ethical questions concerning historical cases, hypothetical scenarios, and particular technological systems that affect personal and societal conditions. The artist will ask simple questions on which the audience can answer through a series of polls. In the space there will be boxes where the audience can cast votes by marking pieces of paper. These ethical questions will also be shown on the floor, the boards, and the screens in the space. This particular site-specific, in-progress, and immersive installation will create paths in the space where people can walk through to navigate complex ethical issues and arguments. Beyond the polls and the paths to choose, the audience will be able to leave feedback and add new questions to examine. They can also add feedback on a shared document, have a discussion with other people with different opinions, and talk to the artist to deliberate on hypothetical information policies.

This project addresses specific highly problematic cases like the Facebook Files, Right To Be Forgotten, Wikileaks DNC leak, Predictive Policing, and Cambridge Analytica, and generally, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Darknet. These issues urgently need democratic debate. The discussion can't be limited to technocrats, legislators, coders, and opaque internal policies of private entities. Art can play a role in this process of creating awareness and reflection on difficult ethical questions through making them relevant and engaging.

In the open studio Paolo Cirio will also discuss his ongoing campaign Right to Remove to bring a form of Right To Be Forgotten in United States. His proposal for this specific Internet policy is at the heart of the philosophical questions for balancing social accountability, freedom, empathy, access, and human rights on the Internet.

This artwork is ultimately a process of participatory decision-making on ethical issues affecting the security, privacy, and dignity of everyone for a just and equal society.

**Some problematic issues that will be questioned:**

***Search engines and social media moderation:***

Hate Speech  
Harassment  
Trolling  
Bullying  
Blackmail  
Stigmas

***Social Profiling:***

Social score & bias  
Consumer profiling  
Racial profiling  
Sex offenders  
Criminal records  
Predictive Policing

***Privacy and surveillance:***

State and corporate surveillance  
Cryptography for power structures  
Cryptography backdoors for individuals  
Public shaming

***Security:***

Hacking  
Leaks  
Theft

***Piracy:***

Copyright  
Trademark  
Royalties  
Fair use  
Education

***Sharing Economy:***

Labor rights  
Private property

***Media and politics:***

Targeting Voters  
Fake News

***Algorithms:***

Accountability of coders  
Artificial Intelligence control

***Blockchain, deepweb, and darknet:***

Anonymity  
Trust  
Privacy  
Fraud  
Hate speech  
Cruelty

***Digital Currencies:***

Transparency  
Volatility  
Access

***Robotics:***

Automated weapons  
Automated Labor

***Infrastructures:***

Internet of things policy  
Cloud servers  
Decentralization  
Ecological impact

**Should fake news on  
social media be  
removed by Internet  
companies  
themselves?**

**Should we remunerate  
the open source code  
utilized by big  
corporations such as  
Google?**

**Should the coders of  
algorithms with racial  
biases be legally  
accountable?**

**Can the hacking of  
political parties during  
election be justified?**

**Should we be able to  
trace individuals who  
use digital currency,  
such as Bitcoin?**

**Should Facebook  
delete posts  
concerning hate  
speech toward  
refugees?**



**Should the documents  
leaked by Snowden be  
made available to  
everyone – not only  
journalists?**

**Should public figures  
on Twitter be given  
access to block other  
accounts?**

**Should politicians be  
able to use fully  
cryptographed  
communications for  
work?**

**Should voter profiling  
and databases being  
banned?**

**Should vulnerable  
individuals be  
protected online even  
if they are key to  
public debate?**

**Should political  
spending for online ads  
be regulated like they  
are on TV?**

**Should electronic  
voting be completely  
avoided and analog  
systems restored?**

**Should ads managed  
by algorithms be  
considered  
physiologically  
manipulative  
advertising?**



***Machine Logic: Our Lives are Ruled  
by Big Tech's 'Decisions by Data'***

***The Guardian***

***The EU is Right to Take on Facebook,  
but Mere Fines Don't Protect Us from  
Tech Giants***

***The Guardian***

***Why Are We Giving Away Our Most Sensitive Health Data to Google?***

***The Guardian***

***Right to be forgotten: Swiss Cheese  
Internet, or Database of Ruin?***

***The Guardian***

***If Fake News Fools You, It Can Fool  
Robots, Too***

***Bloomberg***

***Obfuscation: How Leaving a Trail of  
Confusion Can Beat Online  
Surveillance***

***The Guardian***

***How Europe is Fighting to Change  
Tech Companies' 'Wrecking Ball'  
Ethics***

***The Guardian***

*In the Wake of Apple v FBI, We Need  
to Address Some Uncomfortable  
Truths*

*The Guardian*



***Artificial Intelligence is Ripe for Abuse, Tech Researcher Warns: 'A Fascist's Dream'***

***The Guardian***

***The A.C.L.U. Needs to Rethink Free  
Speech***

***NY Times***

***Algorithms: AI's Creepy Control Must  
be Open to Inspection***

***The Guardian***

***Forget Far-Right Populism – Crypto-Anarchists are the New Masters***

***The Guardian***

***We Can't Ban Killer Robots – It's  
Already Too Late***

***The Guardian***

***Make Algorithms Accountable***

***NY Times***

***Why is Silicon Valley Fighting a Sex  
Trafficking Bill?***

***The Guardian***

***Why Does Facebook Allow Advertisers  
to Target 'Jew Haters'?***

***The Guardian***



***Scholar Says Google Criticism Cost  
Him Job: 'People are Waking Up to its  
Power'***

***The Guardian***

***Why is Google Spending Record Sums  
on Lobbying Washington?***

***The Guardian***

***Far-right 'Free Speech Week' at  
Berkeley Collapses in Recrimination  
and Discord***

***The Guardian***

***Tech Firms Open to Changing Law to  
Combat Sex Trafficking***

***Wired***

***Forget Wall Street – Silicon Valley is  
the New Political Power in  
Washington***

***The Guardian***

***'From Heroes to Villains': Tech Industry Faces Bipartisan Backlash in Washington***

***The Guardian***

***'Our Minds Can Be Hijacked': the Tech  
Insiders Who Fear a Smartphone  
Dystopia***

***The Guardian***

***As Google Fights Fake News, Voices  
on the Margins Raise Alarm***

***NY Times***



***Data Power Could Make 1984 'Look  
Like a Teddy Bear's Picnic'***

***Irish Times***

***Rethinking Ethics Training in Silicon Valley***

***The Atlantic***

***Tories Refuse to Disclose Content of  
Facebook Adverts Targeted at  
Marginal Seats***

***Independent UK***

***Facebook and Google: Most Powerful  
and Secretive Empires We've Ever  
Known***

***The Guardian***

***How Do You Stop Fake News? In  
Germany, with a Law.***

***Washington Post***

***Data Populists Must Seize Our  
Information – for the Benefit of Us All***

***The Guardian***