

FLASH FICTIONS ON ALTERNATIVE NETWORKS AUGUST 2021

Flash Fictions on Alternative Networks is a special project from The Photographers' Gallery Digital Programme running throughout August 2021.

As part of an ongoing series of explorations and initiatives looking at alternative networks (digital communities), The Photographers' Gallery Digital Programme sent out an open call earlier this year asking for original image-text based flash fictions which have real or imagined networks at their centre. Flash Fictions are works of extreme brevity that present the macro in the micro - a 'world in a grain of sand'.

From the submissions received, 11 were selected, not just as exemplars of this succinct literary form, but for the way each piece uses the potential of collaborative human-machine created story-telling to portray a wide range of responses to our increasingly hybrid and hyper-connected networks.

Each submission includes a combination of images, words and video in various arrangements of up to 600 words. Featured artworks include *Memoryscapes*, a digital exploration of how algorithms, digitisation, and online search mechanisms can change our perception of a memory; a simulated app for contacting the dead and a short story created using a textsynth generator which imagines a trip to outer space with three Silicon Valley CEO's.

Rather than deliver the works as a single publication, people are invited to sign up to receive the 11 mini-fictions direct to their email over the course of two weeks. The format harnesses the email medium as a story-telling platform, one without a fixed timetable so that the recipient doesn't know quite when or what to expect. Sometimes a story will be published on just one email, other times in a few. This form of delivery riffs off both the episodic tradition of story-telling, as well as drawing attention to the digital newsletter – a correspondence generally masquerading as personalised that has become ubiquitous to inboxes everywhere.

Using Mailchimp – a widely used newsletter creation and management platform, subscribers will receive a series of automated emails over a two-week period from signing up; each one bringing one or more flash fiction in a form as close to realising the work(s) as possible. As with many newsletters, some of the content

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presented may contain slight variants, video or interactivity that cannot function within email, so will link out to a separate website or platform.

At the end of their two weeks, subscribers will receive a 'end page' or 'colophon' email carrying further information on all the contributors (human and automated) as in a traditional publication, although in this case the collection of fictions exists as a series of emails. Subscribers will be able to stop receiving the emails at any time and once their two-week publication is over, their contact details will not be used for other purposes. The subscription will be free and open over a year before being archived on unthinking.photography, an online platform from The Photographers' Gallery which maps and responds to photography's role in contemporary culture.

Flash Fictions on Alternative Networks features 11 works with contributions from:

Emmanuela Ambrosone, Dorin Azougy, Andrea Alexa Cavallo, Lara Coromina Parcet, Marco Galvan, Alexander Walmsley, James Ellaway, Ollie Tong, Nicholas Faris, Jack by-the-hedge, Salvi de Sena, Shelby Shaw, Mariah Blue, Tina Salvadori Paz, Julian Asbäck, Federico Poni, Nataša Cordeaux, George Allaway, William Fielding, Google Cloud Vision, Markovify Markov-chain generator, Artbreeder, Google Translate, Textsynth, Magenta next_frame_prediction, Google Earth2 GAN, Python, Huggingface, Resemble.ai, rosebud.ai, this person does not exist.

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://unthinking.photography/articles/flash-fictions-on-alternative-networks>

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

For further press information and image requests please contact:

Grace Gabriele-Tighe or Harriet Black at Margaret PR on +44 (0) 20 7739 8203 or email grace@margaretlondon.com or harriet@margaretlondon.com

Notes to Editors:

[Imagin\(in\)g Networks](#) is a programme exploring the existing and potential networks that use images to enable human and machine interactions. Over the course of a year, the social, political, technological and environmental impacts of image networks will be examined through artist commissions, texts, workshops and events.

The influence that images and visual information have had on the way we live and our understanding of our surroundings has grown exponentially. Since the birth of the photographic image in the 19th century, images have had a dominant role in our lives right up to modern day communications from news to entertainment. Digital technology, and in particular, the Internet has further accelerated this process. At a time when visual data accounts for most of the total online traffic, the Internet has radically altered the affect and position of images.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to

create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen months long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

Mon – Closed

Tues – Sat 10.00 - 18.00

Thu 10.00 - 20.00

Sun 11.00 - 18.00

Social media

Instagram: @thephotographersgallery

Twitter: @TPGallery

Facebook: @ThePhotographersGalleryLDN

**THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS'
GALLERY**



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