

BOOK LAUNCH SYMPOSIUM

THINKING MACHINES - MACHINE THINKING

14 February 2019 - EPFL ArtLab



Nicolas Ducimetière

Vice director Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cologne



Macarios Jabbour

Executive director Maronite Library Aleppo, Syria



Béla Kapossy

Dean of the EPFL College of Humanities



Sarah Kenderdine

Director of the EPFL ArtLab

Lead of the EPFL Laboratory for experimental museology eM+



Bill Sherman

Director of the Warburg Institute and Professor of Cultural History in the University of London's School of Advanced Study



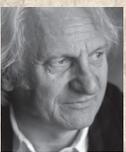
Roland Tormey

Coordinator of the EPFL Teaching Support Centre



Amador Vega

Professor of Aesthetics and Art Theory at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona



Siegfried Zielinski

Michel Foucault Professor of Media Archaeology and Techno-Culture at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee (CH)

MORNING

- 9:00 **Welcome**
Guided tour through the exhibition: "Thinking Machines. Ramon Llull and the ars combinatoria"
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- 9:45 **Introduction**
Béla Kapossy, EPFL CDH & **Sarah Kenderdine**, EPFL ArtLab
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- 10:00 **What Does Llull's Ars Combinatoria Mean for Art?**
Amador Vega, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
- The ars luliana took root in the European intellectual milieu thanks to thinkers such as Nicholas of Cusa and Giordano Bruno, before falling into decline with Descartes, the Enlightenment, and the advent of modern philosophy. In the wake of the Modernist avant-gardes, poets, writers, and artists found in this fourteenth-century ars inventiva a powerful if unlikely model for their own grammars of creation. Yet what legacy of Ramon Llull's combinatorial system, a method for religious conversion, endures in the minds and praxes of contemporary creators? Given the specificities of its cultural context, how might we establish an analogy between Ars and Art?
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- 10:45 **Ramon Llull as a Modern Media Thinker**
Siegfried Zielinski, Saas-Fee Switzerland and UDK Berlin
- Ramon Llull's intellectual universe is presented as an ideal media world in the late European middle ages and as an interface to pre-modernity, which profited a lot from the knowledge cultures of the Middle East. Llull's paper machines are discussed as an early example of priest's mechanics (Priestermechanik). The whole project on Llull will be presented as an advanced investigation in Prospective Archaeology. Within this methodological and conceptual framework prominent aspects of our book will be introduced, especially the idea of a chrono-topological presentation of Llullism.
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- 11:30 **Coffee Break**
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- 11:45 **Computational Thinking**
Roland Tormey, EPFL
- The fourth industrial revolution (i4.0) is changing the way in which people live, work and interact with each other and with technology. The rapid pace of change means that items which were the subject of study only a few years ago are now commonplace. The iPhone, for example, was launched only ten years ago but today mobile connectivity is the pervasive norm throughout much of the world, with an estimated 2.32 billion smartphone users worldwide. This transformation has enormous impacts on the way people teach, learn and work. This is evident in scientific fields but also in the way people work in social, artistic and cultural fields. Social and cultural evolutions also require educational evolutions; just as the industrial revolution was associated with the growth of public education, the fourth industrial revolution also necessitates educational change. One such change is a focus on computational thinking, defined as the "conceptual foundation required to solve problems effectively and efficiently (i. e., algorithmically, with or without the assistance of computers) with solutions that are reusable in different contexts". How can such thinking become part of the foundation for an education fit for contemporary challenges?
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- 12:30 **Q & A**
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- 13:00 **Lunch Break**
Launch of the publication* "DIA-LOGOS Ramon Llull's Method of Thought and Artistic Practice"

