

10-Year Anniversary TEC ART: progressive art, performances & drugs in Rotterdam

socially critical art festival is back in Rotterdam from Feb. 8 - 12 2023

big names and groundbreaking talents take over the city center



Dall-E 2 image (by Arno Coenen, Olivier Teepe, Rodger Werkhoven & Suzyonekenobi)

TEC ART Festival 2023: tenth anniversary edition surrounding drugs

Socio-critical art and technology festival TEC ART lands in the city center of Rotterdam again from Feb. 8 - 12 2023 as a subversive element of the annual Rotterdam Art Week. The corner of Boomgaardsstraat / Witte de Withstraat functions as backdrop for a twisted Cyberpunk Arena: 500m2 of free-to-experience futuristic outdoor art, trippy light installations, performances and DJ shows; the adjoining indoor spaces of cultural center WORM can be visited for a psychedelic indoor exhibition of groundbreaking artworks by well-known names and up-and-coming talents.

To celebrate TEC ART's tenth anniversary, the festival kicks off on Wednesday, Feb. 8, with a long-cherished wish of the organization: a taboo-breaking scientific symposium on the controversial topic of drugs. In presenting the symposium and controversially themed artworks, TEC ART is championing more progressive perspectives on drugs and encouraging visitors and policymakers to embrace the pioneering capabilities of mind-altering substances.

Drugs

The topic of drugs is urgent not only because of the never-ending, inefficient war on drugs, but also because of the increasing intertwinement with technology in the form of recreational biotec designer drugs (such as 4-FMP, Benzo Fury and 2C-B) as well as the completely derailed international commercialization of Big Pharma's modified 'medicines'. In addition, drug use has a close relationship with the arts - think of drug users Vincent Van

Gogh, Dali, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Ella Fitzgerald, Philip K. Dick, Janis Joplin, Madonna and many others - and drugs form an essential aspect of social life for the vast majority of subcultures, despite potential dangers. It is no coincidence that drugs feature prominently in popular culture, from Aldous Huxley's dystopian *Soma* to *The Culture's* utopian *drug glands* by sci-fi writer Ian M. Banks. Keynote speakers and artists present their views during TEC ART Festival: what relationship do our bodies have to drugs in the future, and how will society relate to them?

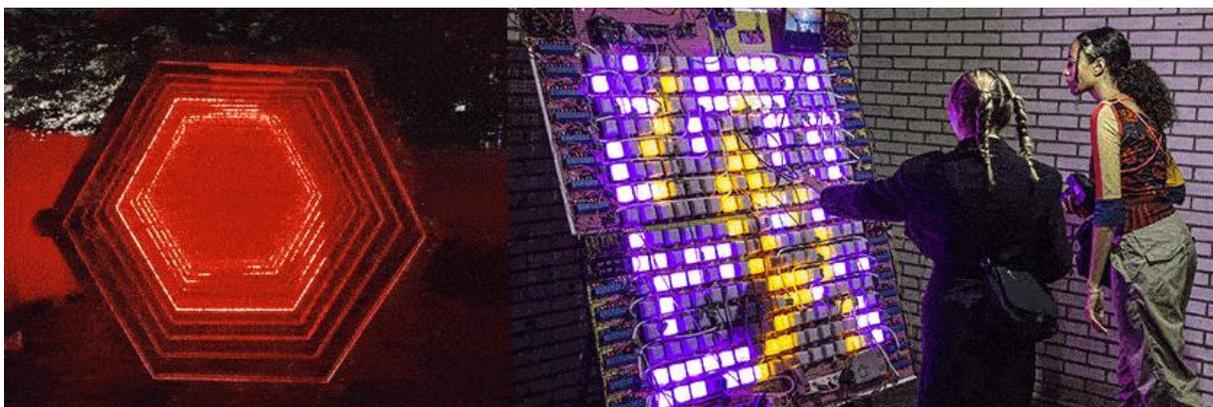


Impression TEC ART '22 ([click here for the full video](#))

Highlights

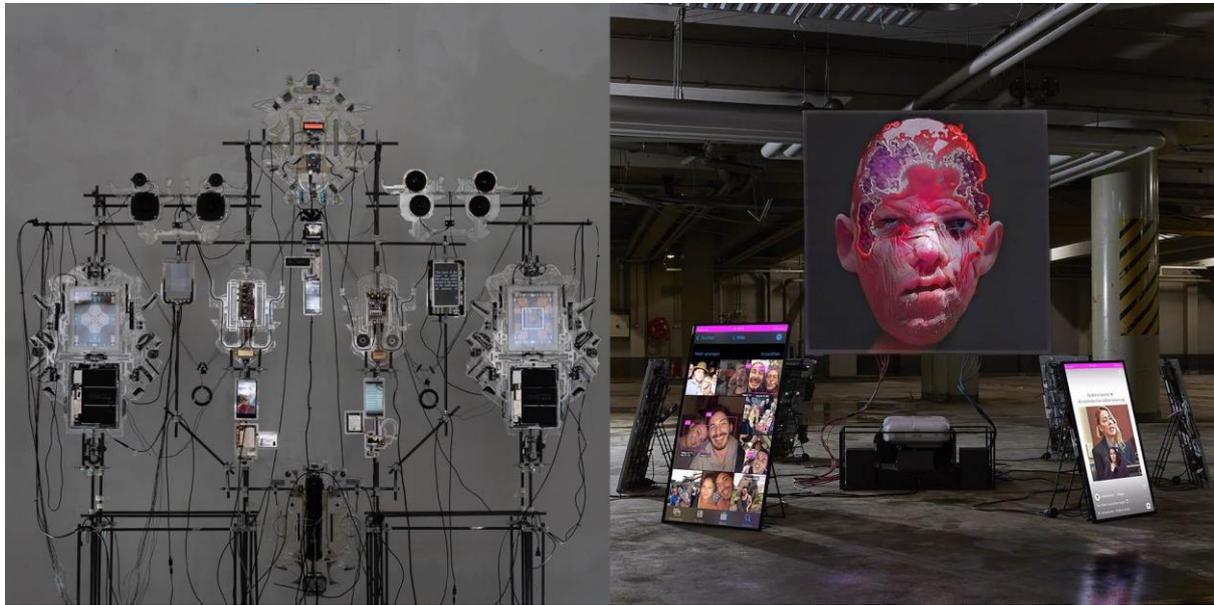
In light of the exponential growth of A.I. generated art, TEC ART, in collaboration with artists Arno Coenen, Olivier Teepe, Rodger Werkhoven and Suzyonekenobi, presents a world first: a video generated by the artificial intelligence tool Dall-E 2. In other words, moving images created by entering a few keywords into an online environment. Terrifying, or revolutionary? Dall-E 2 is an initiative of OpenAI, founded by Elon Musk and funded by Microsoft with millions.

HEXASEQUENCER by Joey Kremer is a large-scale audiovisual and interactive psychedelic Gesamtkunstwerk. The installation can be experienced in the outdoor Cyberpunk Arena and takes visitors on a sensory journey across all dimensions. *HEXASEQUENCER* is accompanied live on location by sound designers and DJs.



Left: Joey Kremer - HEXASEQUENCER. Right: Xuanning Chen - Game of Me

As is tradition, TEC ART, as the leading creative tec talent platform in the Netherlands, curates the best of the graduates of creative tec studies across the country. This edition includes the data-driven installation *Game of Me* by Xuanning Chen and the acclaimed *Forced Switch* by Youngblood Award-winner Zhao Zhou, alongside Teresa Fernandez Pello's *Spiritual Acceleration* and *The Artificial Self* by Lukas Völp, and a curated selection of other talents.



Left: Teresa Fernandez Pello - *Spiritual Acceleration* Right: Lukas Völp - *The Artificial Self*

On Saturday, February 11, TEC ART in collaboration with WORM is organizing a free outdoor rave in the Cyberpunk Arena. Artist Jelle de Graaf is creating a new monumental DJ booth c.q. sculpture especially for the occasion, built with industrial waste material. After the outdoor rave there will be an afterparty in WORM's main area.



Left: Jelle de Graaf - DJ-booth during ADM Festival (a smaller version is on show during TEC ART '23). Right: TEC ART '22 Outdoor Rave with *Sovjet Helikopter* as DJ-booth

About TEC ART

In recent years, TEC ART has presented distinctive large-scale installations and performances in Rotterdam's outdoor space, such as Luke Jerram's ultra HD *Museum of the Moon* in 2017 and the Cyberpunk parade in collaboration with Abacus Theater in 2022.

In the summer of 2021, TEC ART landed at Brutus (formerly AVL Mundo) to co-host the mega manifestation FAKE ME HARD with the Niet Normaal INT Foundation. In 2022, there was a one-time spring edition of TEC ART.



Left: Luke Jerram - Museum of the Moon (TEC ART '17). Right: Abacus Theater - Wastelanders (TEC ART '22 Cyberpunk-parade in the Witte de Withstraat)

TEC ART is an initiative of PLANETART, which, as a Bis institution in Enschede, organizes tec & art projects of international allure throughout the country from their headquarters, creative breeding ground WARP Technopolis. The research theme for 2023 is drugs.

TEC ART Festival 2023
8 - 12 February, Rotterdam
WORM, Boomgaardsstraat 73 (3012 XA)

Wed. 8 Feb from 17:00 - 22:00 + Symposium from 20:00 - 22:00
Thu. 9 feb from 12:00 - 22:00 + experimental AV-party starting 22:00 (t.b.c.)
Fri. 10 Feb. from 12:00 - 23:00 + Hardcore Club Night starting 23:00 (t.b.c.)
Sat. 11 Feb. from 12:00 - 23:00 + Tekno Club Night starting 23:00 (t.b.c.)
Sun. 12 Feb. from 12:00 - 18:00

confirmed artists: Arno Coenen, Joey Kremer, Teresa Fernandez Pello, Xuanning Chen, Clara Schweers, Jelle de Graaf, Kasperski Lab, Rodger Werkhoven, Suzyonekenobi, Pronksnor, Vincent Schoutsen, Lars van der Miesen, ViaOral, Lukas Völp, Alex Werth, Zhao Zhou and many more t.b.a.

More information and most up to date timetable: www.tecart.nl
video TEC ART 2022: [klik hier](#)

TEC ART is part of the [Rotterdam Art Week](#) 2023 and the agenda of [Rotterdam Festivals](#), and closely collaborates with [WORM](#).

TEC ART is made possible by financial support from [Ministerie van OCW \(Bis\)](#) and [Rotterdam Festivals](#).



Youngblood Award Winner 2021 Kexin Hao - Future Dance of Nostalgia / Proximity Music (performance @ TEC ART '22)



TEC ART at the Flag Parade next to the Erasmusbrug

Note for editors:

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