

LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON: ARE OUR EYES TARGETS?

11 APRIL 2024 – 2 FEBRUARY 2025



Lynn Hershman Leeson, *The Electronic Diaries of Lynn Hershman Leeson 1984–2019*, 1984–2019, six-channel video installation, 74', color, sound. Video still. Courtesy of the artist and Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco.

[Press Preview: 8 April 2024, 12 p.m. or by appointment. Registration: \[press@jsfoundation.art\]\(mailto:press@jsfoundation.art\)](#)

The Julia Stoschek Foundation is excited to present “Lynn Hershman Leeson: Are Our Eyes Targets?”, the first solo exhibition by the renowned artist and media pioneer in Düsseldorf. Spanning the entire second floor of the foundation, the exhibition features videos, photo-collages, and interactive and mixed-media installations that delve into the artist’s groundbreaking practice.

2024 marks the fortieth anniversary of the epic video installation, *The Electronic Diaries of Lynn Hershman Leeson 1984–2019* (1984–2019), which forms the centerpiece of the exhibition. Hershman Leeson examines her personal experiences of abuse and illness and the relationship between technology and self, amid the global political context. As the work shifts between time frames and perspectives, viewers encounter the evolution of multiple, sometimes

contradictory personas that represent the artist. These slipping identities lead us to question how much of what we see on our screens is true, revealing a gap between reality and our mediated images of it. Set against the contemporary media landscape, Hershman Leeson's work rings truer than ever.

In addition to the six-channel video installation, the exhibition comprises the historical mixed-media installation *Paranoid* (1968–2022), from the *Breathing Machines* series; a selection of seven *Phantom Limb* photo-collages (1985–90); the interactive installation *CybeRoberta* (1996); the print *Are Our Eyes Targets?* (1984); and two videos, *Seduction of a Cyborg* (1994) and *Shadow Stalker* (2018–21). The first video addresses the invasion of technology into the body while the latter takes a closer look at the creation of digital identities and surveillance by the state. Together, these works investigate the reciprocal effects of seeing and being seen—whether in person, through the camera lens, or in virtual spaces.

Through her novel use of technology and psychological analysis, and her play with identities, Hershman Leeson brings about a power shift that draws attention to and subverts our voyeuristic desires. Across critical, speculative, and documentary registers, she emboldens us to take back control of our bodies, our images, and our narratives, especially as women.



Lynn Hershman Leeson, *Are Our Eyes Targets?*, 1984, digital print of a video still from the interactive videodisk installation *Deep Contact*, 1984, 102 x 152 cm. Courtesy of the artist, Bridget Donahue and Altman Siegel.

Since the 1960s, Lynn Hershman Leeson has shaped artistic discourses on performance, interactivity, cyborgs, surveillance, artificial intelligence, and biogenetics, paving a path that many generations would follow. She has worked with some of the most significant scientists of our time, bringing art into a complex dialogue with science. As a professor and critic, Hershman Leeson has written extensively on art, media, and politics. Between 1974 and 1978, she commissioned over 300 artists to present artworks in public spaces as part of *The Floating Museum*, which she founded as a platform for artists excluded from institutions at the time. Alongside her art-making, Hershman Leeson has written and directed six feature films and documentaries, a selection of which will be shown as part of the public program accompanying the exhibition. The screenings at JSF Düsseldorf include *Conceiving Ada* (1997), *Teknolust* (2002), and *!Women Art Revolution* (2010).

The exhibition “Lynn Hershman Leeson: Are Our Eyes Targets?” is curated by Lisa Long, Artistic Director of the Julia Stoschek Foundation, with the support of Line Ajan, Assistant Curator.

ABOUT THE JULIA STOSCHEK FOUNDATION

The Julia Stoschek Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the public presentation, advancement, conservation, and scholarship of time-based art. With two public exhibition spaces located in Berlin and Düsseldorf that feature cutting-edge media and performance practices, the foundation stewards one of the world’s most comprehensive private collections of time-based art.

With over 900 artworks by 300 artists from around the globe, the Julia Stoschek Collection spans video, film, single- and multi-channel moving image installation, multimedia environments, performance, sound, and virtual reality. Photography, sculpture, and painting supplement its time-based emphasis. The collection’s contemporary focus is rooted in artists’ moving image experiments from the 1960s and ’70s.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRESS PREVIEW

8 April, 12 p.m.

Please register at press@jsfoundation.art

PRESS IMAGES

www.jsfoundation.art/press/

LOCATION

JSF Düsseldorf

Schanzenstrasse 54, 40549 Düsseldorf

DURATION

11 April 2024 – 2 February 2025

OPENING

9 April 2024, 6–10 p.m.

ARTIST TALK

9 April 2024, 6:30 p.m.

OPENING HOURS

Saturday and Sunday, 12–6 p.m.

SPECIAL OPENING HOURS DURING ART DÜSSELDORF

11–12 April 2024, 12–6 p.m.

ADMISSION

5 Euro (Tickets are valid for six months after your first visit)

Admission is free for children and adolescents who are 18 or younger, school pupils, students, occupational trainees, the disabled, pensioners, the unemployed, and recipients of social security on producing valid identification.

BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

The JSF Düsseldorf is accessible for those with wheelchairs or prams. If you would like to use the lift to travel between the floors of the exhibition space, just ask our service staff and they will be happy to assist you.

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS IN GERMAN

Twice a month on Sundays, noon (duration: 90 minutes)

Price: EUR 10.00 per person, free of charge for children and people under 18 years of age, as well as school children, students, and trainees. Register at visitjuliastoschekcollection.as.me/schedule.php.

SPECIAL GUIDED TOURS

Please make any inquiries for guided tours for groups by email at visit.duesseldorf@jsfoundation.art.

Price: EUR 20.00 per person for groups of 10 people and more, free of charge for groups of students from universities, colleges, schools, and art academies.

WEBSITE www.jsfoundation.art

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PRESSE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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