

# AI ARTS FESTIVAL 2024

## PROGRAMME



**SUNDAY**  
**2 JUNE 2024**  
**THE ARC AND THE**  
**THEATRE ROYAL,**  
**WINCHESTER**

**WEB SCIENCE  
INSTITUTE**

# WELCOME TO THE 2024 AI ARTS FESTIVAL

Artistic directors: Professor Les Carr, Professor Larry Lynch, Professor Thomas Irvine

A celebration of how AI and the arts are coming together in a variety of ways at the University of Southampton and Winchester School of Art.

Immerse yourself in photography, fashion, robotics, literature, music and comedy all with an AI twist, at this interactive event across the Arc and the Theatre Royal Winchester.

AI Arts Festival is a production of the University of Southampton organised by the Web Science Institute in collaboration with the Winchester School of Art and the Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities.

**WEB SCIENCE  
INSTITUTE**

# DAY TIME PROGRAMME

**Time: 11:00 onwards**

Venue: Arc Performance Hall

Dr Chiying Lam	<b>Making Music With HandI</b>	<p>Come and try a mobile app that creates music using hand gestures and movements from your smartphone. HandI is a motion-based digital musical instrument (DMI) that, unlike typical mobile apps relying on direct-touch finger input, uses your smartphone's orientation for musical expression.</p> <p>This DMI transforms hand gestures and movements into meaningful data for music processing, making it accessible to people with various cognitive and mental impairments. It encourages musical communication among players, allowing for collaborative music-making without the need for prior knowledge or demanding motor skills.</p> <p>As a special feature, we will be recording all the music-making from the participants and crafting a dynamic sound collage to conclude the festival.</p> <p>Student Musicians: Jiayi Chen (Guzheng) &amp; Miaojiang Kang (Erhu)</p>
Yijie 'Ink' Gao	<b>Meet an animal robot</b>	<p>Come along and meet the robot animal GUA. Built using AI, GUA has her own preferences and feelings. But be careful though – she's not always friendly!</p>

Venue: Arc Learning Rooms

Dr Ian Dawson	<b>Fat Fingers</b>	<p>We've all accidentally pressed the wrong button when using a computer or our phone. Have you ever blamed 'fat fingers'?</p> <p>Ian Dawson explores the amalgamation of photography and AI image software, to ask how accidental images might be arrived at through image prompting. The visual results are a fascinating display.</p>
Dr Laura Cinti	<b>AI in the Sky</b>	<p><i>Encephalartos woodii</i> is a rare plant on the verge of extinction, with an estimated 500 remaining. All existing specimens are male clones of one single plant, bred in botanical gardens and, without a female, they remain the last of their kind.</p> <p>'AI in the Sky' tells a visual story about our ongoing search for the female counterpart, using drone technology and AI. Combining maps from our drone missions with an AI system trained on both real and synthetic cycads, it attempts to dissect and detect potential areas where the plant could be found.</p>
Dr Seth Giddings	<b>The Machine Wants to Play</b>	<p>Seth displays an automated slideshow tracing the tangled history and genealogy of artificial intelligence, artificial life and robotics with play, games and toys.</p>
Dave Gibbons	<b>Park Life*</b>	<p>An investigative journey into the possibilities around post-documentary photography using AI text-to-image generation tools and prompt-crafting techniques in an attempt to co-create convincingly absurd photographic imaginings.</p>
Alice Janssens	<b>Generating Fashion: Towards Digital Futures</b>	<p>Alice explores how fashion, digital technology and generative AI can interact to foster creativity and drive forward innovation in the production and marketing of fashion items.</p>

**Time: 12:00**

Venue: Theatre Royal Foyer

**Official  
festival  
opening  
ceremony**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith will officially open AI Arts Festival 2024, joined by artists and organisers from the University of Southampton.

**Time: 13:00**

Venue: Theatre Royal Atrium

Dr Adam  
Procter  
  
Dr Christina  
Mamakos

**WetAI Lab:  
PaintR**

In this session Dr Adam Procter will talk about his work related to human centred and human understandable Education Technology and AI considerations.

Dr Christina Mamakos will present thoughts around how contemporary painting practice might inform image/text AI technology.

Together with attendees we will workshop the process of creating prompts and creating images. Both attendees and machines will develop images from the prompts, a human to human and human to machine workshop. Help us explore the way we process and understand text to image as humans and machines!

Venue: Arc Performance Hall

Dr Chiying Lam

**Making Music  
With HandI**

*1:00-1:30pm  
\*Relaxed  
session, please  
details below*

Come and try a mobile app that creates music using hand gestures and movements from your smartphone. HandI is a motion-based digital musical instrument (DMI) that, unlike typical mobile apps relying on direct-touch finger input, uses your smartphone's orientation for musical expression.

This DMI transforms hand gestures and movements into meaningful data for music processing, making it accessible to people with various cognitive and mental impairments. It encourages musical communication among players, allowing for collaborative music-making without the need for prior knowledge or demanding motor skills.

As a special feature, we will be recording all the music-making from the participants and crafting a dynamic sound collage to conclude the festival.

Student Musicians: Jiayi Chen (Guzheng) & Miaojiang Kang (Erhu)

*\*Relaxed sessions are designed for visitors who prefer a quieter environment. They are especially suitable for individuals with sensory sensitivities, complex support needs, special educational needs, and disabilities (SEND), as well as their families and/or carers. Everyone is welcome to attend.*

Yijie 'Ink' Gao

**Meet an  
animal robot**

Come along and meet the robot animal GUA. Built using AI, GUA has her own preferences and feelings. But be careful though – she's not always friendly!

**Time: 14:00**

Venue: Theatre Royal Atrium

Dr Kevin Brazil	<b>Making Up Stories with AI</b>	In this short talk, academic and writer Kevin Brazil will explore some of the ways contemporary writers are using generative AI to compose short stories, and will read from one of his own stories, written with the use of AI powered voice recognition technology.
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Venue: ARC Performance Hall

Professor Les Carr Dr Steve Cross	<b>Standup comedy about AI</b>	Standup comedy about AI, from AI researchers at the University of Southampton and comedians across the country. MC'ed by Dr Steve Cross, the founder of the chaotic science cabaret show 'Science Showoff, our funniest BSc's and nerdiest PhDs will LOL at Alexa and ROFL at the robot apocalypse. You'll laugh, you'll learn, you'll love our new AI overlords!  Featuring Anna George, Luke Chaplin, Alice Morrell, Jacqui Ayling, Jo Grundy and William Hunt.
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**Time: 15:00**

Venue: Theatre Royal Atrium

Dr Luci Eldridge	<b>Robot Visions and Virtual Interfacings: seeing, sensing, shaping</b>	How do past and present technologies affect how we perceive the world and see things?  Learn more from author Dr Luci Eldridge's book on how robotic vision is reshaping and reconstituting our perception of the world and the implications for these new ways of seeing ethically, politically, culturally and socially from an art and design perspective.
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**Time: 16:00**

Venue: Arc Performance Hall

Dr Benjamin Oliver Hannah Williams	<b>Love Letters [with AI]</b>	'British soul sensation' Hannah Williams and composer Dr Benjamin Oliver perform music inspired by, or created with, AI.  The programme features cabaret number 'How Could You Prefer It To Me?' by Bella Barlow and Drew Crawford, Anna Appleby's 'Reservoir', selections from Jennifer Walshe's 'A Late Anthology of Early Music Vol. 1: Ancient to Renaissance' and a new version of Oliver's song cycle 'Love Letters'.  Premiered and recorded by Williams and Riot Ensemble in 2023, 'Love Letters' includes melancholic, absurd and dramatic expressions of love made with LovelaceGPT, an AI text generation model developed by University of Southampton researchers.
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# EVENING PROGRAMME

**Time: 17:00**

Venue: Theatre Royal Main Auditorium

Professor  
Thomas Irvine

**Live interview**

Live interview with leader of the Orchestre National de Jazz, guitarist and composer Frédéric Maurin and saxophonist Steve Lehman – by Thomas Irvine, Head of Music at University of Southampton.

**Time: 18:00**

Orchestre  
National  
de Jazz

**Ex Machina**

The Orchestre National de Jazz and the Institute for Research and Coordination in Acoustics/Music (IRCAM) present Ex Machina, a programme conceived by the American saxophonist Steve Lehman and Frédéric Maurin, artistic director of the ONJ. Ex Machina is the result of a collaboration with the Musical Representations team at IRCAM, headed by Gérard Assayag, and explores for the first time the possibilities of interaction between the instrumentalists and the machine within a large jazz orchestra.

By integrating devices created using Jérôme Nika's Dicy2 environment, which implements interactive agents using machine-learning to generate musical sequences that can be integrated into musical situations, in the composition process and in the soloists' improvisations in real-time, the computer becomes, in turn, a generator of electronic orchestrations for the composers and an improvisation partner for the musicians.

**Time: 19:30**

Venue: Theatre Royal Main Auditorium

Dame Wendy  
Hall and guests

**Panel  
discussion**

Listen in to a lively panel discussion on the intersection of AI and the arts and what the future may hold.

Adjunct Professor Bill Thompson, BBC Technology journalist (Chair): As a journalist and broadcaster, Bill Thomson has been following the modern data revolution from its beginnings in the 1990s.

Professor Steve Benford, University of Nottingham. Steve Benford has been working at the interface of engineering, mixed reality and music since the 1990s.

Professor Dave De Roure, University of Oxford/Royal Northern College of Music. Dave De Roure, a distinguished computer scientist and avid jazz bassist, teaches at Oxford and the Royal Northern College of Music.

Professor Dame Wendy Hall, University of Southampton. Regius Professor of Computer Science, world-leading computer scientist and expert on AI policy, is a sometime karaoke singer.

Professor Emily Howard, The Royal Northern College of Music. A leading UK composer, is founding director of PRiSM, the Centre for Practice & Research in Science & Music at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Steve Lehman, Orchestre National De Jazz. "One of the transforming figures of early 21st century jazz" – The Guardian

Frédéric Maurin, Orchestre National de Jazz. Composer, band leader and guitarist, is Artistic Director of the Orchestre Nationale de Jazz.



## Orchestre National De Jazz performers and technicians.

- Mrs Fanny Meteier
- Mrs Catherine Delaunay
- Mr Julien Soro
- Mr Fabien Debellefontaine
- Mr Fabien Norbert
- Mr Daniel Zimmermann
- Mrs Christiane Bopp
- Mr Stephan Caracci
- Mr Bruno Ruder
- Mrs Sarah Murcia
- Mr Rafael Koerner
- Mr Frédéric Maurin
- Mr Serge Lemouton
- Mrs Olympe Dumoulin
- Mrs Fanny Menegoz
- Mr Steve Lehman
- Mr Olivier Laisney
- Mr Christopher Dingman
- Mr Erwan Boulay
- Mr Guillaume Jay
- Mr Yves Le Guen

**Time: 20:40 and 21:25**

Venue: Arc Performance Hall

Dr Pablo Galaz

**Human-like:  
Composing a  
multimedia  
live  
installation  
with AI**

A world premiere event, Dr Pablo Galaz showcases a live installation featuring (Amsterdam-based) musical collective Ensemble Resilience and multidisciplinary artist Angela Wai Nok Hu, in which the audience is immersed in live audiovisuals generated by both humans and AI.

The audience will be invited to explore the ARC Performance Hall whilst sounds produced by computer models specifically trained for this project by composer and software developer Dr Christopher Melen, musical performers, a multichannel sound diffusion system and video projections, create an immersive experience combining audiovisual elements controlled with facial recognition and sounds generated by electromagnetic waves that are not usually within the reach of the human ear.

“Research in fields such as biolinguistics has shown that there is a blurry distinction between growing and learning in human beings. Our way of learning and growing differs fundamentally from the way AI models are trained. Using visual imagery from medical datasets and facial recognition to control sounds and images in real-time, this piece is inspired by the question: ‘What would it mean for a machine (AI) to understand what it is like to be the kind of creature we are?’” explains Pablo.

**Time: 20:40 and 21:25**

Venue: Theatre Royal Atrium

Alex Farrow  
Ted Hill

**Late night  
stand-up**

AI standup comedy, but this time ChatGPT will be the one performing! Under the tutelage of experienced comedian Ted Hill (‘Few comedians harness the frenetic activity of their minds quite as comprehensively as Ted Hill’ - Chortle) a version of ChatGPT trained by University researchers will join him on the stage to help find the funny with the audience members. Part performance, part scientific experiment, all entertainment - guaranteed!

Joining Ted is Alex Farrow (“Practically perfect in every way” ★★★★★ The Scotsman), a former philosophy teacher asking ‘can machines think?’



**Find out more:**

[www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi)  
[WSI@soton.ac.uk](mailto:WSI@soton.ac.uk)



[www.linkedin.com/in/web-science-institute](http://www.linkedin.com/in/web-science-institute)



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