

# Refiguring the Future

Hunter College



Above: In Her Interior, Her Eyes Were As Black As Coal... (still), 2019. Mixed media installation and video, 9 minutes. Courtesy of the artists.

February 9–March 31, 2019

**Opening:** February 8, 6–8pm

**Conference:** February 9–10

Day 1: Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College / Day 2: Knockdown Center

**205 Hudson Gallery, Hunter College Art Galleries**

Entrance on south side of Canal St.

205 Hudson Street

New York, New York 10013

United States

[www.205hudsongallery.org](http://www.205hudsongallery.org)

[www.eyebeam.org](http://www.eyebeam.org)

[refreshart.tech](http://refreshart.tech)

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Twitter](#)

Gallery hours: Wednesday–Sunday 1–6pm

The Hunter College Art Galleries are pleased to announce *Refiguring the Future*, a new exhibition and conference offering a politically engaged and inclusive vision of the intersection of art, science, and technology. Organized by Eyebeam and REFRESH in collaboration with the Hunter College Art Galleries and curated by REFRESH collective members Heather Dewey-Hagborg and Dorothy R. Santos.

## New visions for art, science, and technology

Discourses of science fiction, technology, and speculation have historically offered visions of the future that recapitulate dominant culture, projecting images of tomorrow through the existing capitalist, racist, and patriarchal structures of today. Interested in rupturing these systems, *Refiguring the Future* is inspired by artist Morehshin Allahyari's use of "refiguring" as a feminist, decolonial, and activist practice. This exhibition seeks to "refigure the future": to push, probe, tear apart, and re-envision what the future can be.

Informed by the punk ethos of DIY, the artists in *Refiguring the Future* mine the historical and cultural roots of our current moment, pull apart the artifice of contemporary technology, and sift through the pieces to forge new visions of what is possible. Working across an array of mediums and approaches—from analog books to augmented reality (AR)—these artists address and examine a tumultuous present in order to produce a more inclusive future. Centered on feminist, queer, decolonial, anti-racist, and anti-ableist artists the exhibition includes:

**Barak adé Soleil, Morehshin Allahyari, Lee Blalock, Zach Blas, micha cárdenas\* and Abraham Avnisan, In Her Interior (Virginia Barratt and Francesca da Rimini)\*, Mary Maggic, Lauren McCarthy, shawné michaelain holloway\*, Claire and Martha Pentecost, Sonya Rapoport, Sputniko! and Tomomi Nishizawa, Stephanie Syjuco, and Pinar Yoldas\*.**

\*Denotes participation in conference.

**Conference:** February 9–10, 2019

Day 1: Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, 10am–6pm

695 Park Ave, New York, NY 10065

Entrance on the Northside of 68th Street between Lexington and Park

Day 2: Knockdown Center, 12–6pm

52-19 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378

Following the public reception on February 8, *Refiguring the Future* will open with a two-day conference highlighting over 20 speakers and workshop leaders, including featured keynote presentation by **Simone Browne** (University of Texas at Austin), who traces Black women's creative engagement with surveillance; **Keeanga-Yamahтта Taylor** (Princeton University), who examines the politics of social liberation movements; and **Zach Blas** using queer and feminist methods to speculate on digital alternatives.

The *Refiguring the Future* conference convenes artists, educators, writers, and cultural strategists to envision a shared liberatory future by providing us with collective imaginings that move beyond and critique oppressive systems to offer alternative possibilities.

**Participants:** Keynotes are Simone Browne, Keeanga-Yamahтта Taylor, and Zach Blas. Featured participants include Morehshin Allahyari and Shirin Fahimi, Ruha Benjamin, micha cárdenas, Taeyoon Choi, Sofía Córdova, Hayley Cranberry, Jaskiran Dhillon, Kadja Ferryman, Shannon Finnegan, Aljumaine Gayle and Ladan Siad, Anneli Goeller, Kathy High, shawné michaelain holloway, In Her Interior (Virginia Barratt and Francesca da Rimini), Yo-Yo Lin, Cynthia Malone, Maandeeq Mohamed, Rasheedah Phillips, Legacy Russell, Tiare Ribeaux, Sofia Unanue, Alexander Weheliye, and Pinar Yoldas.

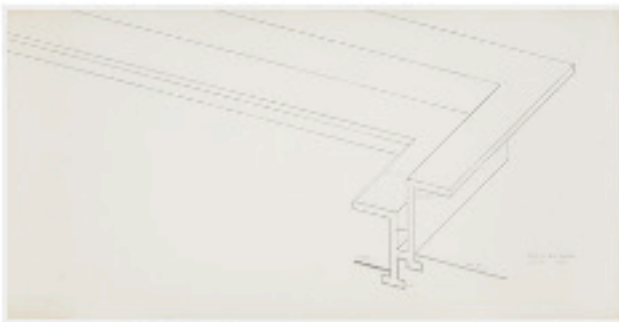
*Refiguring the Future* is supported by grants from the Open Society Foundations and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of NetGain. This partnership is a philanthropic collaboration seeking to advance the public interest in the digital age.

Additional support for the presentation of *Refiguring the Future* at the Hunter College Art Galleries is made possible by the David Bershad Family Foundation, the Susan V. Bershad Charitable Fund, Inc., Carol and Arthur Goldberg, Agnes Gund, Joan Lazarus, and the Hunter College Foundation.

MacArthur  
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Robert Morris: Para-  
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Lecture: Koyo Kouoh

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MFA thesis exhibitions

APRIL 11, 2019





# reFiguring THE FUTURE

205 Hudson Gallery  
Hunter College Art Galleries  
205 Hudson Street  
Entrance on the south side of Canal  
between Hudson and Watts

Curated by REFRESH members  
Heather Dewey-Hagborg and  
Dorothy R. Santos. Organized by  
Eyebeam and REFRESH in collaboration  
with the Hunter College Art Galleries

EXHIBITION ON VIEW  
FEBRUARY 9–MARCH 31, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6–8PM

markings, a new work by Barak adé Soleil,  
will begin unfolding on opening night and  
continue February 9 and 10.



ASL interpretation will be  
provided for this reception

EYEBEAM

REFRESH

HUNTER COLLEGE  
ART GALLERIES

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## REFIGURING THE FUTURE • PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7–9PM**

**PERFORMATIVE LECTURE**

205 Hudson 2nd Floor Flex Space

In Her Interior and Petra will perform *This Platform Life* (a command line memoir). This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2–3PM**

**CURATOR-LED WALKTHROUGH  
WITH HEATHER DEWEY-HAGBORG**



ASL interpretation will be  
provided for this tour

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 6–9PM**

**TRIBECA ART NIGHT**

*Refiguring the Future* will stay open late in  
participation with this Tribeca-wide tour.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2–3:30PM**

**VERBAL DESCRIPTION + TOUCH  
TOUR WITH MUSEUM EDUCATOR  
PAULA STUTTMAN**

Detailed verbal descriptions and selected touch objects will provide an opportunity for visitors who are blind or have low vision to experience the exhibition. This tour will focus on the dynamic artworks and themes put forward by the artists and curators. RSVP is requested. For more information or to RSVP please email [j.soto@eyebeam.org](mailto:j.soto@eyebeam.org) or call (347) 378-9163 (voice only).

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7–9PM**

**PERFORMANCE**

shawné michaelain holloway will perform *\_Scheduled(VariableRatio):secondary-conditioned-immediateReinforcement(s)-handlerSearch1\_DrillAndPracticeVERSION2.exe*, an interactive experiment in operant conditioning.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information on *Refiguring the Future* programming visit Hunter College Art Galleries at [huntercollegeartgalleries.org](http://huntercollegeartgalleries.org) or visit Eyebeam at [eyebeam.org/rtfprogramming](http://eyebeam.org/rtfprogramming). PDFs of the printed materials in *Refiguring the Future* will be made available at [eyebeam.org/rtfprogramming](http://eyebeam.org/rtfprogramming)

For more information on REFRESH, visit [refreshart.tech](http://refreshart.tech)

Image on front: *In Her Interior, Her Eyes Were As Black As Coal...* (still), 2019.



205 Hudson Gallery is an accessible space and there is ample seating in the gallery. For more information or to request assistive services, please call us at 212-772-4991 (voice only), or email [hcag@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:hcag@hunter.cuny.edu).



# reFiguring THE FUTURE

## ***Refiguring the Future* Conference Curatorial Text**

**Lola Martinez and Maandeeq Mohamed**

A platform for collective engagement, this two-day conference brings together an array of artists, educators, writers, and cultural strategists to envision a shared liberatory world-building politic. Tracing how science and technology have shaped the world around us, the conference brings forth critical perspectives that offer ways of living differently in relation to land, self, and others that we must take seriously in our current political moment. Participants expand the work science does, taking up other methodologies such as story-telling and speculation, to challenge structural injustices and engage technology by posing new questions and experiments.

Technological infrastructures—from discriminatory networks to agents of surveillance—have perpetuated systemic cultural and economic oppression, and now, more than ever, our social imaginary is limiting and inaccessible. Interwoven with capitalist and racial biases and operating as globalized networks of control, science and technology overdetermine our existence. They categorize individuals according to markers such as race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship, and in turn undermine the ways in which we live and navigate our present and future worlds.

Against these forces, what possibilities arise when accelerating technologies are paused and world building is privileged? The conference expands on the works and ideas presented in the *Refiguring the Future* exhibition, offerings new insights on accessibility, biotechnologies, ecologies, and world-building.

The conference features keynote presentations from Zach Blas, who investigates issues of the internet, capitalism, and state oppression; Thenmozhi Soundararajan, who explores the power of storytelling as the most important unit of social change; and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (Princeton University), who examines the politics of social liberation movements. Additional panel discussions, workshops, and programs merge activist, artistic, and theoretical practices to examine systems of information and knowledge, classifications of the body, and connections between environmental states.

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**Participants:**

Keynotes: Zach Blas, Thenmozhi Soundararajan, and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. Featured participants include Morehshin Allahyari, Ruha Benjamin, micha cárdenas, Taeyoon Choi, Bojana Coklyat, Sofía Córdova, Hayley Cranberry, Jaskiran Dhillon, Shirin Fahimi, Kadija Ferryman, Shannon Finnegan, Aljumaine Gayle, Anneli Goeller, Kathy High, shawné michaelain holloway, In Her Interior (Virginia Barratt and Francesca da Rimini), Tiri Kananuruk, Cori Kresge, Yo-Yo Lin, Cynthia Malone, Maandeeq Mohamed, Claire Pentecost, Rasheedah Phillips, Legacy Russell, Tiare Ribeaux, Ladan Siad, stud1nt, Sofía Unanue, Alexander Weheliye, and Pinar Yoldas



## Refiguring the Future: This Platform Life, a performance by In Her Interior, with Petra

Friday, February 15

**Doors open at 6:30 PM**

**Performance at 7:00 PM**

Free and open to the public

Hunter College MFA Program Flex Space, Room 200  
205 Hudson Street  
New York, NY 10013

### ***This Platform Life* (a command line memoir)**

In Her Interior and Petra will perform *This Platform Life* (a command line memoir). This Platform Life is a memoir, looking back to look forward at a life lived in the futurepast, platform stacking, stratifying, and avatar jumping, where the flesh in all its porosity leaks data into the dataocean to become a multiplicity in univocity. Hyperleaping from platform to platform and avatar to avatar, exhuming zombie shells and webbing, messily.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

### **In Her Interior**

Formed in 2015, In Her Interior co-creates and performs live works of spoken, sung, and recorded text and video within site-specific installation environments. As two of the four co-founders of cyber-feminist group VNS Matrix (est. 1991), da Rimini and Barratt have contributed to critiques of gender and technology for over three decades. *Her Eyes Were As Black As Coal...* is a new work by the Australian collective, on view in *Refiguring the Future*.

### **Petra**

Petra (aka Waste Heat) is a Milwaukee-based sound artist & DJ whose ambient/techno mixes are really taking off in the Midwest and beyond. This is the first time they have performed live with In Her Interior, and in New York, although they have collaborated on sporadic philosophy gigs together.

