

Exhibition: December 1–8, 2025

Historical context: Hans Bellmer, Karel Čapek, Alexei Gastev, Frank and Lillian Gilbreth, Ishirō Honda, Fritz Kahn, Harry May, Kliment Redko, Pavel Tchelitchew, Lev Theremin, among others

Contemporary artists: Jenny Brockmann, Patricia Domínguez, Mario Gooden, Michael Johansson, Grace Ndiritu, Tao Ya-Lun, Ayoung Yu and Nicholas Oh, among others

Opening times: Mon, Wed–Fri, 11:00–17:00;
Sat–Sun, 10:00–18:00

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Fakultät Medien

Chair of Media Theory and History of Science

Conference and exhibition organized by
Jenny Brockmann, Henning Schmidgen,
Mathias Schönher, Aleksandra Selivanova

www.uni-weimar.de/animism-machinism

Location:
Bauhaus Museum Weimar
Projektraum A - Basement
Stéphane-Hessel-Platz 1
99423 Weimar
Germany

Funded by

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



KLASSIK
STIFTUNG
WEIMAR

design: andrea nicolò

Conference: December 3–5, 2025

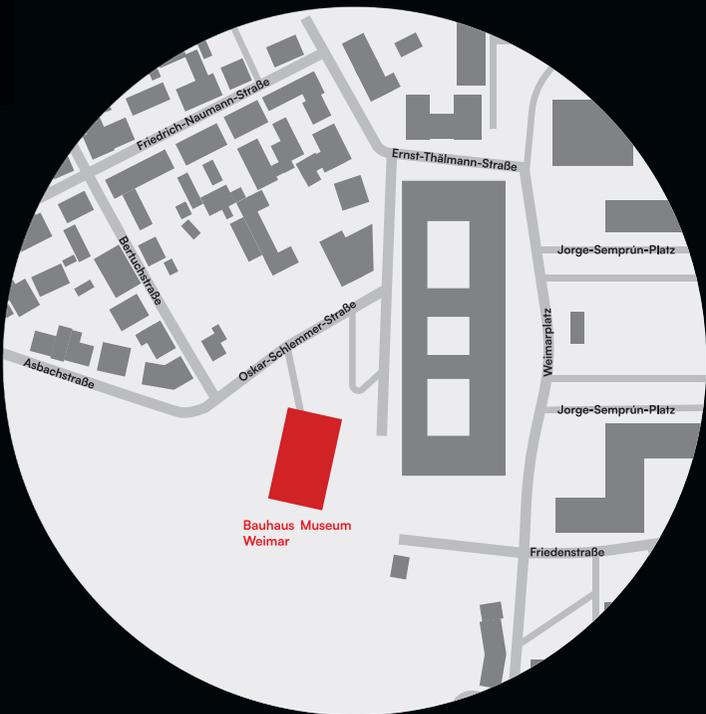
Didier Debaise
Daniel Falb
Vanessa Farfán
Orit Halpern
N. Katherine Hayles
David Howes
Yuk Hui
Zakiyyah Iman Jackson
Robert Mitchell
Simone Natale
Juliane Rebentisch
Tom Sanya
Sandra Schäfer
Henning Schmidgen
Mathias Schönher
Aleksandra Selivanova
Danni Shen
Andrey Smirnov
Julia Katharina Thiemann
Anton Vidokle
Elena Vogman
Margarete Vöhringer



International Conference
and Exhibition
**Planet Uncanny: Redistributing
Subjectivities across Technology,
Nature, and Society**
Bauhaus Museum Weimar

The boundaries of the Uncanny Valley are increasingly blurred. Today, AI systems generate texts, images, and films largely autonomously. In parallel, scientific research continues to reveal the cognitive abilities of plants. Yet debates on the Anthropocene show that the feeling of the uncanny is not confined to a valley where humans, machines, and plants meet. Rather, the Earth itself emerges as an actor in its own right – less a home than a source of uncertainty and disorientation.

This transdisciplinary conference explores the redistribution of subjectivity across technology, nature, and society from multiple perspectives. Five fields of emergence (divination, imagination, repetition, transition, and substitution), all defined in relation to Freud's study of «The Uncanny,» serve as points of departure. Providing the setting for the conference, an installation at the Bauhaus Museum – incorporating artworks, objects, and materials – introduces these fields. In addition, a curated collection of texts, images, and film clips documents the transformation of ideas and sensations associated with the new machinic reality of the early 20th century.



PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 3

13:30 **Henning Schmidgen**
Welcome and Introduction

IMAGINATION

13:45 **Daniel Falb**
«Animism's Second Coming: Socializing AI»

14:30 **Orit Halpern and Robert Mitchell**
«The Planetary Experiment: A History and Theory of Science at Scale»

15:30 Coffee Break

DIVINATION

16:00 **Simone Natale**
«Talking to Non-Stochastic Parrots»

16:45 **Vanessa Farfán**
«Beyond the Uncanny: An Artistic Field»

17:30 Coffee Break

18:00 **N. Katherine Hayles**
Keynote Lecture
«Analog Lifeworlds: How Organisms Evolved Analog Computing to Construct Their Worlds – Then Humans Reinvented It»

19:30 Reception

Thursday, December 4

REPETITION

9:30 **Juliane Rebentisch**
«The Reality of Ghosts: Haunted Landscapes of the Anthropocene»

10:15 **Mathias Schönher**
«Distributed Proto-Subjectivity: The Animism of Félix Guattari»

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Anton Vidokle**
«Notes on Aesthetics of Spiritualism»

12:15 Lunch

SUBSTITUTION

14:30 **Jenny Brockmann and Julia Katharina Thiemann**
Tour of the Installation

15:15 Coffee Break

15:45 **Zakiyyah Iman Jackson**
«Making Generations»

16:30 **Didier Debaise**
«Earthbound Subjectivities: From Nature to Non-Human Subjectivities in Bruno Latour»

17:15 Coffee Break

18:00 Evening Talk and Discussion
Sandra Schäfer, Aleksandra Selivanova, Andrey Smirnov, Elena Vogman, and Margarete Vöhringer
«Working Body, Breaking Body: Biomechanics, Prosthetics, Robots, ca. 1920»

Friday, December 5

TRANSITION 1

9:30 **David Howes**
«Pushing the Bounds of Sense: Expanding on the Notion of «The Sixth Sense»»

10:15 **Danni Shen**
«Chimeric Embodiment: Posthumanism, Contemporary Art, Embodiment, Spirituality»

11:00 Coffee Break

TRANSITION 2

11:30 **Tom Sanya**
«The Edifice and Its Haunting Absence»

12:15 **Yuk Hui**
TBA

13:00 Farewell