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Diego Marchante

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VISUAL ESSAY

QUEER FUTURITIES

ARTISTIC STRATEGIES FOR THE DYNAMIZATION OF ARCHIVES

DIEGO MARCHANTE "GENDERHACKER" 

University of Barcelona, Spain

Abstract

"Gendernaut. Queering the Future" is a project influenced by queer theories, transfeminist activism and science fiction. It reflects on the potential of various strategies related to accessibility, distribution, socialization and playful reinterpretation of feminist and queer archives. The creation of archives, software programming, audiovisual production, performing performances or developing games all serve as artistic strategies aimed at invigorating archives. They share a clear intent to enhance accessibility to archives that document the memories of feminist and gender and sexuality dissident communities. Through transmedia and performative experiences, we envision the archive as a living, interactive space, devoid of heteropatriarchal codes, inhabited by multiple bodies and subjectivities linking past, present and future to come.

Keywords: Art, Archive, Queer, Performance, Videoart

INTRODUCTION

"Gendernaut" is an English term that could be translated as "navigator of the genre," invoking the image of Jason's Argonauts. It first appears in the documentary "Gendernauts: A Journey through Shifting Identities" (1999), directed by Monika Treut. "Queer", on the other hand, originally meant strange or outside the norm. Seen as an insult, and reclaimed and redefined by dissident gender and sexuality groups in the 1990s, it has also evolved into a gerund verb denoting mobility, change, and transformation.

This artistic research project, in its initial phase titled "Queering the software," challenges the power dynamics inherent in hegemonic archival structures. It does so through the design of a plugin that enables collective file creation via an online interactive multimedia experience. In its second phase, "Queering the Archive," the project proposes new forms of visualization for narratives based on transfeminist and queer genealogies through transmedia and performative experiences to reimagine the archive as a living interactive space, free of heteropatriarchal codes, inhabited by bodies and multiple subjectivities connecting past, present and future.

The entire series articulates an extensive historical investigation weaving together various thematic threads from the feminist, queer and trans movements in the Spanish political and artistic landscape over recent decades. These genealogies link historical, artistic, and collective events, including actions, campaigns, exhibitions, interviews, fanzines, and performances, forming a complex tapestry of relationships between art, politics, memory and activism. This research culminates in the creation of two archives with a pronounced activist character: "Archivo T. A Transfeminist and Queer Archive" (2011-2023), an archive of social movements and artistic practices that focusses on gender issues from a queer and transfeminist perspective in Spain, and "Arxiva FF" (2017-2024), a collective research archive on the history of the feminist movement in Catalonia.

The final phase of the series, "Queering the future," draws heavily from queer theories, transfeminist activism and science fiction. "Gendernaut," portrayed as a transtemporal and transspatial traveller, guides viewers through a genealogy of key events in feminist and LGBTQ+ movement history, offering a transmedia and performative experience to explore alternative visions of the future from a transfeminist and queer perspective. This journey prompts a reevaluation of promises made regarding future representations and their alignment with present realities.

In contrast with male-dominated narratives of traditional science fiction cinema, the protagonist delves into stories highlighting pioneering women such as Ada Lovelace, the first woman programmer, Hedy Lamarr, the inventor of Wi-Fi, Radia Joy Pearlman, "the mother of the internet", Jude Milhon "St. Jude", hacker and inventor of the term Cyberpunk. is fascinated by feminist science fiction novels like "Frankenstein" (1818) by Mary Shelley, "The Sultana's Dream" (1905) by Roquia Sakhawat Hussain, "The Left Hand of Darkness" (1969) by Ursula K. Le Guin, "The

Female Man" (1970) by Joana Russ or "The Handmaid's Tale" (1985) by Margaret Atwood. Our cyborg is bored by Robocop's testosterone-saturated fantasy and delights in the image of a vulnerable, cross-dressing E.T. the Extraterrestrial. On the one hand, it invites envisioning new political, social and creative conditions, while proposing, on the other hand, imaginative frameworks where the symbolic and the imaginary intertwine.

The creation of archives, software programming, audiovisual production, performances, and development of games serves as artistic strategies for revitalizing archives. These strategies, viewed through a transfeminist and queer lens, aim to democratize access to feminist and LGBTI movement archives. "La Lloca Loca," a board game depicting the history of the feminist movement in Catalonia, marks the culmination of a decade-long reflection on accessibility, distribution, socialization, personalization, and playful reinterpretation of how the archives are generating feminisms themselves.

The archive, in this context, operates as a counter-history —a disruptive discourse against the dominant narratives that acknowledges, deconstructs and ultimately challenges it. The proposed artistic strategies for archive revitalization call upon our capacity for action, encouraging active participation in the creation and cultivation of diverse and inclusive archival communities, with a distinctly political underpinning.







INFO
ARCHIVO T
TRANSBUTCH
T·IMELINE
BIBLIOTECA
FOTOTECA
MEDIATECA
WEB



ARCHIVA COLECCIONES



+ Tipo

Búsqueda



2015 · CORPOGRAFÍAS
CYBORG



2015 · ¿ARCHIVO QUEER?



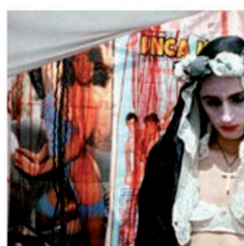
2014 · MÚLTIPLO DE 100



2013 · MUJERES BAJO
SOSPECHA



2013 · JORNADAS POS
APOCALÍPTICAS



2012 ·
CONCEPTUALISMOS DEL
SUR



2011 · OFF SCENE: SI YO
FUERA...



2011 · OCAÑA (1973-
1983)



2011 · LA LOKAL KUIR



2011 · LA
INTERNACIONAL CUIR



2011 · CUERPO
IMPROPIO



2011 · CLAUDE CAHUN



2011 · ASSUME NOTHING



2010 · SICK 80'S



2010 · PELIGROSA
SOCIAL

```

67  * @param string $textdomain Textdomain to use in translation. Defaults to 'splugin_name'.
68  */
69  public function __construct( $plugin_name, $version, $textdomain = null ) {
70
71      $this->plugin_name = $plugin_name;
72      $this->version = $version;
73      $this->textdomain = $textdomain ? $textdomain : $plugin_name;
74      $this->page_title = 'Gendernaut Archive Settings';
75  }
76
77  /**
78   * Register Settings for this plugin.
79   */
80  * @since 1.0.0
81  */
82  public function register_options() {
83      $this->settings = new WeDevs_Settings_API();
84      //set the settings
85
86      $post_types = $this->post_type_labels();
87
88      $sections = array(
89          array(
90              'id' => 'gendernaut_post_type',
91              'title' => __( 'Custom Post Type', $this->textdomain ),
92          ),
93          array(
94              'id' => 'gendernaut_shortcode',
95              'title' => __( 'Shortcode Defaults', $this->textdomain ),
96          ),
97      );
98
99      $settings = array(
100          'gendernaut_post_type' => array(
101              array(
102                  'name' => 'create_post_type',
103                  'label' => __( 'Create Custom Post Type', $this->textdomain ),
104                  'type' => 'checkbox',
105              ),
106          ),
107          'gendernaut_shortcode' => array(
108              array(
109                  'name' => 'default_post_type',
110                  'label' => __( 'Default Archive Post Type', $this->textdomain ),
111                  'type' => 'select',

```



2013 · GENEALOGÍAS FEMINISTAS



2013 · AGENCIAMIENTOS CONTRA-NEOLIBERALES



2012 · JORNADAS POR LA DIVERSIDAD



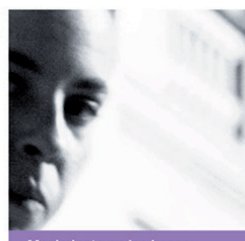
2011 · KICK IN THE EYE



2011 · JORNADAS ACTIVISTAS TRANSFEMINISTAS



2011 · ECOSEX SILVER WEDDING



2010 · MOVIMIENTO EN LAS BASES



2010 · I JORNADAS TRANSFEMINISTAS



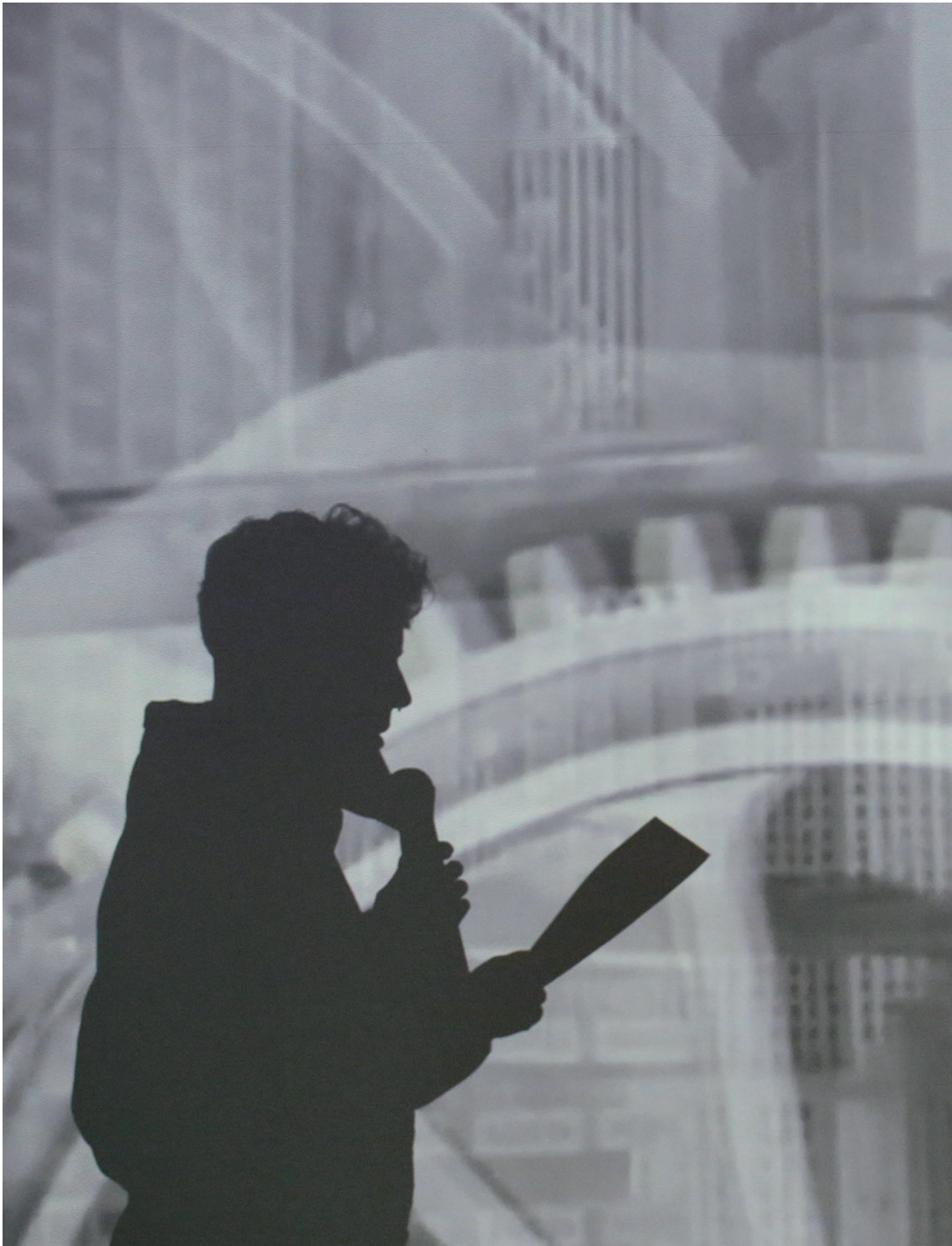
2010 · I JORNADAS DE DESOBEDECENCIA SEXUAL

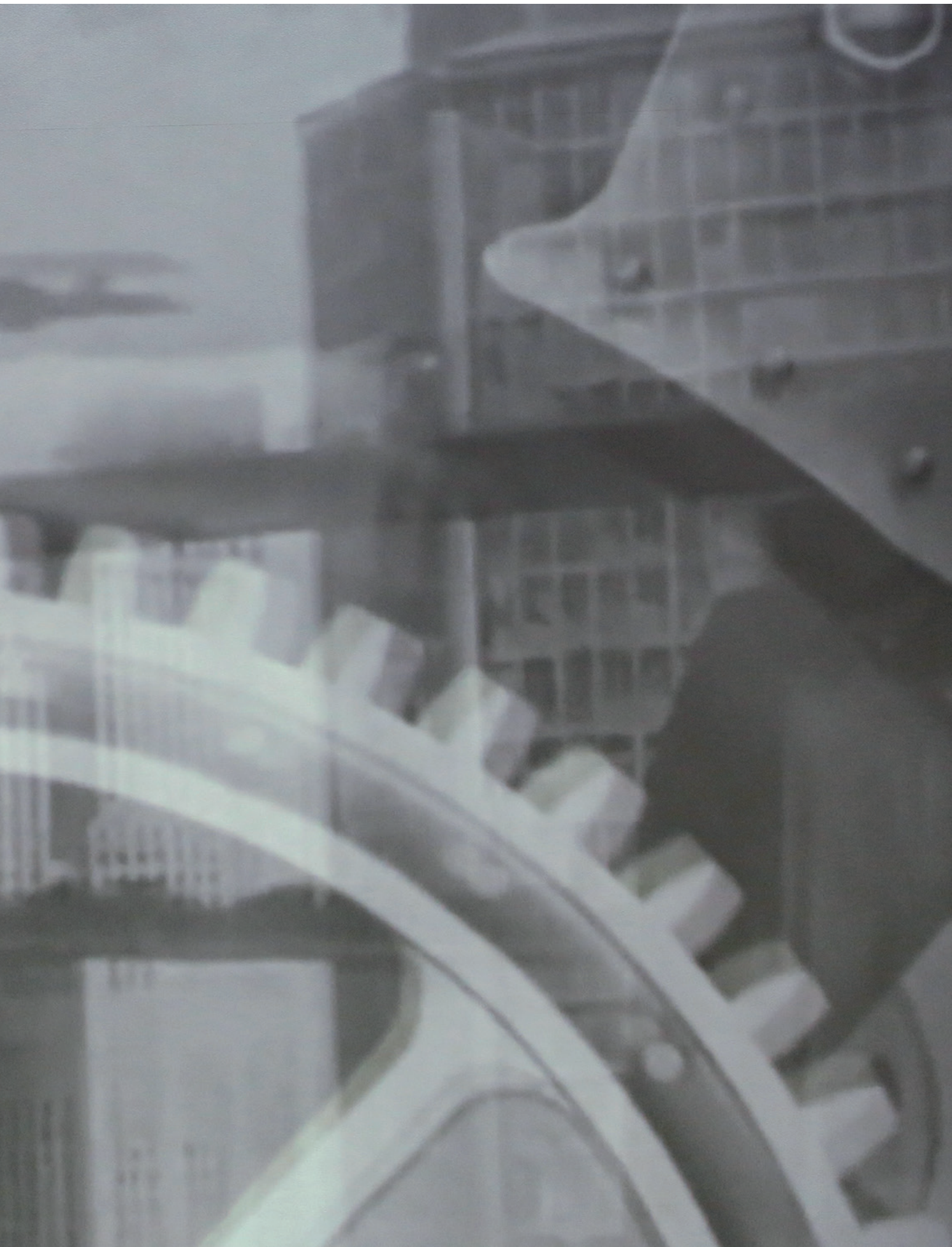






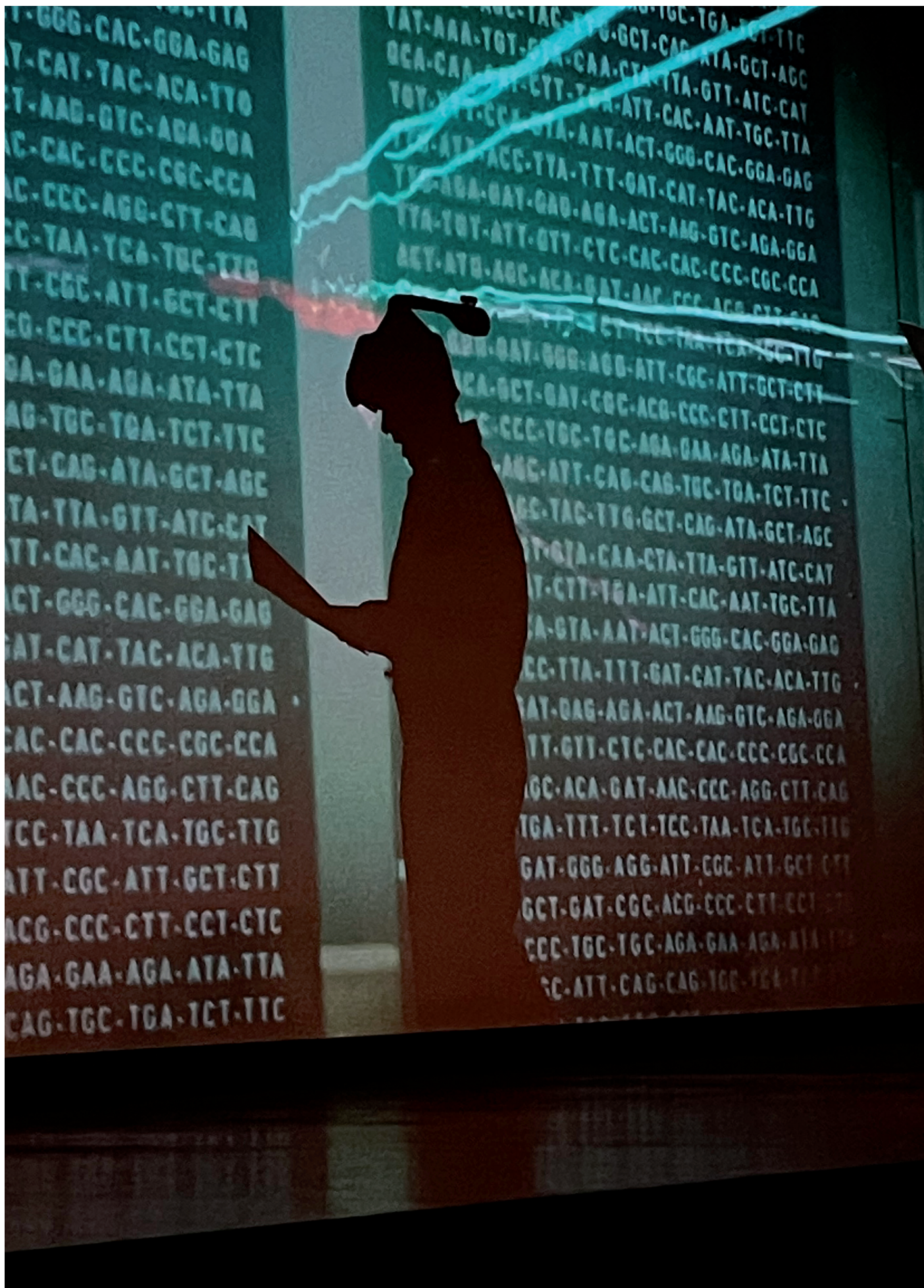












LA LLOCA LOCA. FILS FEMINISTES.



Objectiu del joc

Sé la primera a arribar a la casella central del jardí de La Lloca Loca saltant posicions, segons la tirada del dau i sota les regles de joc establertes en cada casella. Passa-ho bé aprenent i representant la història del moviment feminista i LGTBIQ+ a Catalunya d'una forma lúdica.

Material

- 1 Tauler
- 63 Cartes
- 5 Fitxes de colors
- 1 Dau

Regles de la Lloca Loca



LLOCA: Caselles 1, 5, 9, 14, 18, 23, 27, 32, 36, 41, 45, 50, 54 y 59. Si cau en una d'aquestes caselles pots avançar fins a la següent casella en la qual hi ha una lloca i tornar a tirar.



PONT: Casella 6 i 12. Si cau en aquestes caselles saltes a la casella 19 (Tensió Interna) i aquestes un torn sense jugar.



TENSÍO INTERNA: Casella 19. Si cau aquesta casella et quedas un torn sense jugar.



RELACIÓ TÒXICA: Casella 31. Si cau en aquesta casella, NO es pot tornar a jugar fins que no passi un altre jugador per aquesta casella.



REPRESSIÓ: Casella 42. Si cau en aquesta casella, s'està obligat a retrocedir a la casella 30.



PRESÓ: Casella 56. Si cau en aquesta casella, cal romandre dos torns sense jugar.



DAUS: Caselles 26 i 53. Si cau en aquestes caselles, se suma la marcadura de la casella dels daus (26 o 53) i s'avança tant com resulti.



MORT: Casella 58. Si cau en aquesta casella, cal tornar a la Casella 1.



JARDÍ DE LA LLOCA: Casella 63. Per entrar al jardí de la Lloca és necessari treure els punts justos per a entrar, en cas d'exces es retrocedeixen tantes caselles com punts sobrants.

Les cartes numerades segons la casella et diran quina acció realitzar en cadascuna d'elles. Si desitges tenir una experiència més performativa i audiovisual escaneja el codi QR que trobaràs en cada carta.

FUNDING

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IMAGE CAPTIONS

- Page 150-151** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Gendernaut. Timecapsule 1977*, Performance at the exhibition "Connected bodies. Identity art in the transmedia society" in La Virreina Centre de la Imatge, 2019. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Archive*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 152** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Archivo T. A Transfeminist and Queer Archive (2011-2023)*, <http://archivo-t.net>. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 153** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Programming the Software*, Archive plugin for Wordpress, 2018-19. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Software*. <https://github.com/genderhacker/gendernaut>. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 154** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *The Door to the 4th Dimension*, Performance at the exhibition "Archiva Republicana" in the LGTBI Center of Barcelona, 2019. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Archive*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 155** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Gendernaut. Timecapsule 1931*, Performance at the exhibition "Archiva Republicana" in the LGTBI Center of Barcelona, 2019. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Archive*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 156-157** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Back to the Future*, Performance at the exhibition "New(Ego) Cuerpos conectados" in ETOPIA Center of Art and technologie, 2021. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Future*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 158-159** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *The Futurist Manifesto*, Performance at the exhibition "New(Ego) Cuerpos conectados" in ETOPIA Center of Art and technologie, 2021. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Future*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 160-161** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Bitch Mutant Manifesto*, Performance at the conference "Archivos del común IV. Archivos por/venir" in the MNCARS, 2021. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Future*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 162** Diego Marchante "Genderhacker", *Queer Connected Bodies*. Performance at the conference "Archivos del común IV. Archivos por/venir" in the MNCARS, 2021. From the series *Gendernaut. Queering the Future*. Courtesy of the author.
- Page 163** Fils Feministas, *La Lloca Loca*. Board game about the archive of the feminist movement in Catalonia (Spain), 2023. From the series *Arxives FF*. Courtesy of the authors.