

# *BECOMING.A(THING)*: A SEMIOTIC INSTRUMENT ŠPELA PETRIČ AND MIHA TURŠIČ

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1/ FROM THE RESIDENCY

2/ ART FROM SUPERCOMPUTING BY NICK BROWN (SCIENTIST)

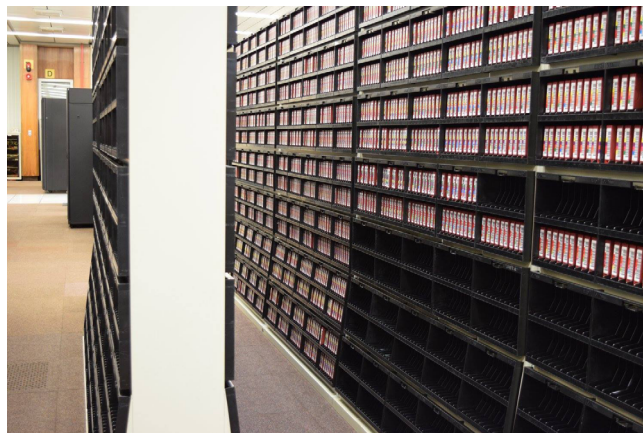
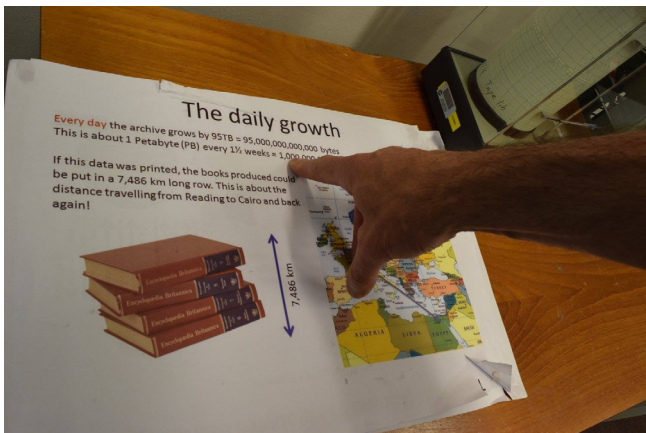
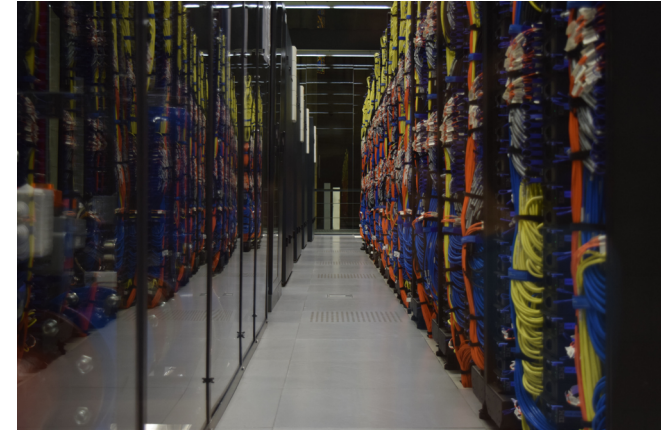
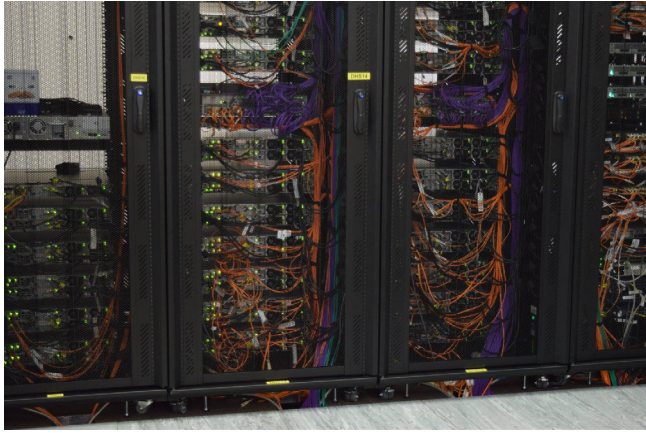
3/ CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTISTS AND SCIENTIST: HUMAN PRIORITIES AT EXASCALE COMPUTING

4/ *LEONARDO* ARTICLE ABOUT THE PROJECT

# 1/ FROM THE RESIDENCY

(From the artists's reports. Images © the artists)

In the first half of our FEAT residency we made visits to different supercomputing (HPC) centres, individual experts and events.



**In July 2016**, we visited the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Reading where dr. Peter Bauer (ESCAPE FET project) introduced us to weather forecasts supercomputing, their ensemble of scientific models for weather forecast and guided us through the whole supercomputing infrastructure, computer room, data storage and support facilities.

During the same month we also visited the IRISA centre in Rennes where dr. François Bodin (EXDCI FET project) introduced us to the scientific method of simulation, different applications and especially to the organisation and structure of supercomputing institutions, including the more general political ecosystem. He also invited us to their conference in September to experience the policy making process in action.

**In September 2016**, we attended the EXDCI conference in Barcelona, where we presented the FEAT initiative to the participants of the conference, amongst which were representatives from all FET HPC projects and institutions. The visit was a fruitful exchange of perspectives on HPC, its infrastructure, computation and social/cultural footprint of algorithmic production.

In Barcelona we also visited the Barcelona Super Computer that is located in a very scenic location - inside a decommissioned church. As a surprise came the fact that the church despite its centuries old appearance was built less than fifty years ago — and is as such a simulation of sacral architecture.

Due to our collaboration with INTERTWinE FET project we were invited to judge at a selection of the best annual image produced by ARCHER supercomputer. We believe that our socially engaged and aesthetic position made an influence on final selection. Link: <https://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/blog/2016/11/15/archer-image-competition-2016-winner-announced>.

Our experience working with scientists, engineers and FET project managers was very successful and inspiring. We were invited for visits and were very much welcomed on all occasions, even where differences in perspectives, methodologies and practices were expected, with curiosity that sparked a lot of inspiring debates. Most of our research and production requests were met with support. We even got funded for our visit at Barcelona EXDCI event and presentation.

Finally, we went to our main residency visit at EPCC centre in Edinburgh where we conducted the final phase of our research, working on experiments, artistic interventions and first prototypes.



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## 2/ ART FROM SUPERCOMPUTING BY NICK BROWN

Description of the set up of the installation-performance as it took place in Dundee in Spring 2017 from the scientists side and point of view.

<https://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/blog/2017/04/21/art-supercomputing>

## 3/ HUMAN PRIORITIES AT EXASCALE COMPUTING

Conversation between Špela Petrič, Miha Turšič, George Beckett and Annick Bureauud (podcast)

Artists Špela Petrič and Miha Turšič and scientist George Beckett talk about their approach to supercomputer and supercomputing in relation to the FEAT residency. They focus and agree on the place of collaboration between art and science and put human at the center of the priorities.

<https://creativdisturbance.org/podcast/human-priorities-at-exascale-computing-meeting-with-spela-petric-mihatursic-and-george-beckett/>

## 4/ LEONARDO ARTICLE ABOUT THE PROJECT

« Becoming.A(Thing): An Artist's Perspective on High Performance Computing, Špela Petrič and Miha Turšič, *Leonardo*, MIT Press

The article summarizes the process and outcome of the Future Emerging Art and Technology residency during which new media artists Špela Petrič and Miha Turšič undertook the challenge of understanding and manifesting the artistic potential of high performance computing (HPC). As a result of the collaboration with FET-HPC we developed a concept liberated from the complex computational technicity to underscore the (un)intentional construction of meaning by algorithmic agencies. The performance presents a *congress of actors* sensing, interrogating, and interrupting each other, thereby producing an excess of relation, interpretation and translation. The heterogeneous congress performs an expulsion of imposed (anthropogenic) meaning, substituted by authentic, autogenic sense and non-sense.

[http://olats.org/feat/Petric-Tursic-leon\\_a\\_01469.pdf](http://olats.org/feat/Petric-Tursic-leon_a_01469.pdf)



## CREDITS

«Becoming.a(Thing)» has been created by Špela Petrič and Miha Turšič  
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INTERTWinE, [www.intertwine-project.eu](http://www.intertwine-project.eu)  
and Slavko Glamočanin, Naprave, [www.naprave.net](http://www.naprave.net)

«Becoming.a(Thing)» has been created as part of the FEAT/Future Emerging Art and Technology project, [featart.eu](http://featart.eu)

FEAT is an initiative of eutema GmbH (AT), Stichting Waag Society (NL), and youris.com (BE).

FEAT has been funded by the EU backed programme FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) Open.

It has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement  
No 686527 (H2020-FETOPEN-2015-CSA).

