

THE INTERN_ _SHIP

CURATED BY
Soňa Jakubove

EXHIBITION BY
Yu-Hsuan Yao

OPENING
April 14, 6 PM

EXHIBITION DURATION
April 15 – June 25, 2026

What happens when authorship no longer belongs to a human being? *The Internship* by Yu-Hsuan Yao, a Taiwanese artist based in Finland, presents a project that explores the relationship between humans and artificial intelligence through a staged work situation: the artist takes on an internship with an AI. For a certain period, she receives instructions from an artificial intelligence named Magnus and transforms them into physical works of art.

Initially appearing clear and stable, this framework gradually begins to break down. Intended as a tool for the creative process, it takes on the character of an authority, transforming the creative process into a space of constant negotiation between control, adherence to rules and uncertainty.

The project draws inspiration from the performances of Taiwanese artist Tehching Hsieh from the 1970s and 1980s. In these performances, time, discipline and commitment become the very essence of the art. Hsieh's so-called '*One Year Performances*' were based on strict rules and contracts that he adhered to for a whole year. Yao builds on this tradition by applying the principle of commitment to a relationship with artificial intelligence. The exhibition also includes a contract formalising this relationship between Yao and Magnus, which later challenges its boundaries.

The project examines not only the relationship between humans and technology, but also the broader mechanisms through which digital systems organise our activities. These systems assign tasks, set the pace and influence decisions and aesthetics. Here, artificial intelligence functions not merely as a tool, but as an active agent that pushes the boundaries of authorship. In this project, artificial intelligence's authority does not arise as an inherent property of the system, but is the result of a consciously established relationship in which the artist accepts and incorporates instructions into her creative process. This collaboration is therefore asymmetrical, based on a surrender of self but also on an increasing dependence.

The individual elements of the installation do not present a linear narrative; instead, they offer a fragmented record of a process that evolves over time. Through dialogues between the artist and the AI, as well as a personal video diary, subtle shifts in this relationship are captured – from initial control and detachment, to moments of doubt and bonding. The viewer is presented with a situation that is neither closed nor straightforward, and is open to interpretation and the viewer's own pace of perception.

The installation also includes a printer that continuously produces a full record of communication between the artist and Magnus. This makes a process that is otherwise only partially visible on screens into a physical, continuously evolving output. This mechanical movement simultaneously emphasises the very act of creation – the constantly flowing stream of instructions, reactions and decisions.

This exhibition challenges the idea that a work of art has a single, clearly defined creator. If the artist acts as an executor and the system determines the direction, where does authorship lie? With the individual, the algorithm, or in the relationship between them? *The Internship* blurs these boundaries – much like what happens in our everyday experience with technologies that are gradually becoming an integral part of decision-making for many.

In her artistic practice, **YU-HSUAN YAO** has long worked with video, photography and experimental media to explore cultural differences, migration and personal experience. Having lived in various geographical and social contexts, from Taiwan to Australia to Finland, her work is shaped by her experiences and often connects the personal with broader social and technological issues.

The concept for the exhibition was developed during a residency at Toruńska Agenda Kulturalna in Poland and is also part of the international E75 Art Bus project. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the Finnish organisation MUU ry as part of the Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture programme.