Elastic Nature is an art research club bringing together interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners and thinkers around the broad subject of ‘the future nature’ via artificial life, sympathetic synthetics, sensory realities, materiality and speculative bodies.

For the second session, we will be exploring the role of the senses in our understanding of the reality of nature. Is ‘nature’ in fact an infinite reality? Is it a uniquely processed, individual experience? Is fake nature as real as wild nature?

Can technology help us understand / explore nature in novel and enlightening new ways? Should we be celebrating the multiple ways of experiencing the world?

We will be joined by Daria Jelonek and Perry-James Sugden of Above & Below who will discuss their multi-disciplinary practice discussing the sensory qualities of un/natural phenomenon. We will also be joined by Pigalle, Tavakkoli, Head of Experience for Guerrilla Science who will be discussing and screening their project Escape To Reality, a video installation questioning us to think about how the brain creates an interpretation of the world.

Start the day the stimulating way, hearing from different creative practitioners on the subject and contributing to brain-tickling discussion over a light breakfast.

All are welcome. Tickets are FREE but limited, sign up here: https://www.meetup.com/BRAINPLAY/events/254204268/ or email beckyl.lyon@googlemail.com

THE CUBE, Studio 5, 155 Commercial St, London E1 6BJ, UK (Through the gates, next to
Elastic Nature is a project by artist and researcher Becky Lyon. Through interactive workshops, seminars, breakfast salons and screenings we'll stimulate conversation, ideas and the imagination around the changing shape of nature addressing subjects such as:

- How are we creating different forms of nature? And for what purpose?
- To what extent can these new forms of nature help remediate the planet?
- What constitutes artificial nature? And is there such as thing as natural anyway?
- What roles do culture, cognition, sensory mediation play in our understanding of nature and the ‘reality’ of it?
- How have new forms of nature/life been represented through speculative and science fiction? And how useful are these fictions in modelling the future?
- To what extent is life contained by the ‘body’? (...and what is the ‘body’ anyway?)
- What’s the future of the stuff of life - what will living things be made of?
- Can synthetic nature ever be more sublime and more beneficial to the biosphere than wild nature?
- How is technology changing the way we view nature - for better or worse?

Findings will be published in an ongoing research dossier.

Find out about future events at: https://www.elasticfiction.co/elastic-nature/

Above&Below is a London based artist duo founded by Daria Jelonek and Perry-James Sugden in November 2017, after graduating from the Royal College of Art in July 2017. Their collaboratively practice focuses on interactive and speculative projects, based on hands-on research at the intersection of art, design and technology – focusing on future scenarios in which emerging technologies and code have the potential to improve our planet’s well being. The artists aim to wire unseen connections together to create new experiences which they believe can change human behaviours for better interactions with our environment. The collective’s practice is known to push the boundaries of how emerging technologies are used by the industry; this is why ABOVE&BELOW is not only using interactive technologies for creative uses, but also to research and reveal their potential for new interactions between human, machine and society.

In 2018-2019, ABOVE & BELOW receives a year long art R&D funding by Collusion Cambridge, for which they currently focus on Augmented Reality’s positive uses for our
environment and consumer behaviours. Collectively and independently, the artists received several fundings and prizes, which include the Collusion art funding 2018 (winner), Lumen Prize 2018 (currently long listed), permanent art installation opportunity at the new Bloomberg building London (2017); ABOVE&BELOW was shortlisted for WIRED Creative Hack Award 2017, Tender ix Award 2017 and Communication Arts Award - Interactive Art 2017 and received the Battersea sculpture prize 2016 (winner). Their artworks were exhibited and screened at cultural institutes such as ICA London, Photophore - Spazio Ridotto Venice, Royal Academy, Royal College of Art, Sónar Barcelona, Hima Art Space Shanghai, Greenwich Observatory London and International Short Film Festival Oberhausen.

Find out more:
www.studioaboveandbelow.com
www.dariajelonek.com
http://perryjamessugden.com

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ABOUT PIGALLE TAVAKKOLI

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Pigalle Tavakkoli is Head of Experience for Guerilla Science, with 12 years expertise designing experiences at the intersection between the sciences and the arts. Guerilla Science creates events and installations for festivals, museums and cultural organisations such as Glastonbury, Secret Garden Party, Wilderness, National Portrait Gallery, Eden Project and Barbican Centre. They connect adults to science in unexpected ways that entertain, inspire, challenge and amaze. Pigalle also teaches short courses in Experience Design at Central Saint Martins, and guest lectures at London College of Communications and London College of Fashion.

Find out more:
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