WORKSHOP & MENTORING OPEN CALL

UNRECORDED VOICES

AI-GENERATED DOCUMENTARIES AND NARRATIVES

Duration | Workshop - 29 October to 4 November 2024
Mentorship programme | 5 November - 24 November
Location | Remote open to South Africans
Final Exhibition | Playtopia Festival at Homecoming Centre, Cape Town - 6-7 December 2024
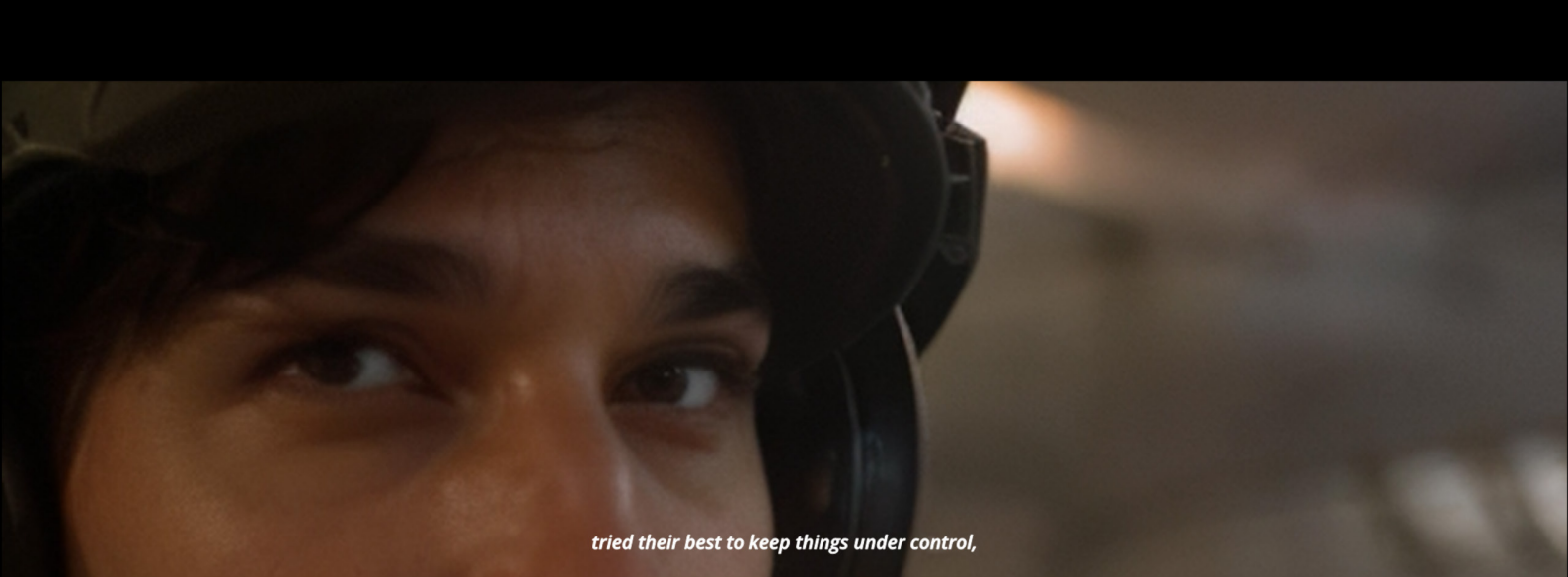Price | Free - selection process through open call
Deadline for application | 17h00, 11 October 2024

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

N Novembre Numérique
Le mois des cultures numériques

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The workshop is taught online, so you need a computer and internet connection.

You don't have to be present physically.

All the cloud computers resources will be given to you. So you will have free AI infrastructure during the workshop.

tried their best to keep things under control,

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The workshops will be hosted by the French studio u2p050, composed of artists, historians and technologists, who will be mentoring South African participants in creating speculative AI-generated documentaries based on historical events and fictional narratives. Participants will be invited to engage in the creation of *"synthetic archives"* – AI-generated audio-visual content that reimagines and reconstructs historical moments or constructs potential events. The project will focus on events, people, and stories that have been historically underrepresented or entirely unrecorded, with a particular emphasis on marginalized communities and social movements based on the participants. Participants to the project are also invited to explore beyond these suggested themes based on their individual research and creations.

This project is supported under the banner of the international digital cultures festival, Novembre Numerique (Digital November). Since 2017, the Institut français and the French cultural network abroad have organised Novembre Numérique projects around the world, as an invitation to question the place of digital cultures in our societies, to increase the awareness of the general public to the new uses of digital technologies, while discovering the richness and diversity of digital creations.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Explore the potential of AI in creating visual and auditory representations of undocumented historical events.
- Critically examine the ethical implications of generating synthetic historical content.
- Develop new methodologies for blending AI-generated content with traditional historical research.
- Create a series of short films or interactive experiences that showcase the potential of AI in historical storytelling.

Furthermore, our program delves into the **philosophical aspects of AI**, with a particular focus on the French ontological turn and its implications for understanding non-human rationality. In other words, it consists in exploring the concept of "other rationalities" and how AI challenges traditional notions of intelligence. By examining the modification of human-intelligence relationships through the lens of pluriversal thinking, we intend to offer the participants a discussion of **how AI might contribute to a more diverse understanding of cognition and existence** in the scope of an extended social activism to the various entities be they human or not that surrounds us in our contemporary lives.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Artists with relation to digital media or technology-based projects.
- Developers who have worked on art installations or creative coding projects.
- Art or Computer Science students if they are very motivated.
- No prior programming experience required, but familiarity with technology is essential (learning curve could be hard)
- Programme is open to South African residents only
- Participants need to be available for online technical workshops from 10h00-12h00 daily from 29 October - 4 November, and have flexible availability for mentorship from 5 - 24 November

WHAT WILL I LEARN AND CREATE?

- Explore various AI tools for text, image, and audio generation
- Develop skills in prompt engineering and AI-assisted content creation
- Produce a short film or interactive experience using AI-generated content
- Create "synthetic archives" using AI to reimagine underrepresented historical events
- Engage in critical discussions about the ethics and implications of AI in historical storytelling

WORKSHOP & MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Hands-on experience with cutting-edge AI tools (GPT, Stable Diffusion, ComfyUI)
- Collaborative project development
- Exploration of philosophical aspects of AI and non-human rationality
- Focus on social activism and marginalized communities
- No-code approach using visual scripting techniques

FINAL SHOWCASE

Your work will be exhibited at the Playtopia festival, offering a unique opportunity to showcase your AI-generated historical narratives to a wider audience.

PARTNERS OF THE WORKSHOP

u2p050
u2p050.com

u2p050 is a pluridisciplinary creative studio at the crossroads of art, philosophy and technology. Through its digital creations, u2p050 attempts to construct thought experiments that open up ways of questioning our contemporary world, and in particular its increasing digitalisation.

To do this, u2p050 uses experimental technologies in its works. For example, the artists use artificial intelligence, three-dimensional modeling, stereoscopic sound and interactive video production software. In extremely diverse forms - installations, texts or audiovisual productions - u2p050 explores a perspective in which the machine is no longer considered a tool to be enslaved, but a lens through which to view new worlds. The studio u2p050 has exhibited in several major institutions including UCCA Labs and Boxes Art Museum in China, Avant Galerie and FRAC in France. u2p050 is the recipient of the French Ministry of Culture's commission Mondes Nouveaux in 2022 and presented at Octobre Numérique festival. It is currently hosted in the international artistic incubator Poush Manifesto in Paris and a member of the Glitch artistic project initiated by the blockchain researcher Primavera de Filippi.

Founded in 2018, Playtopia is Africa's first annual destination Indie Games & Immersive Arts festival and conference. It is a gathering of South African and global creators and players, where we celebrate the African "scene". A place for people to come together to share ideas, connect across continents and disciplines, and to exhibit work.

Playtopia
playtopiafestival.co.za

French Institute of South Africa
frenchinstitute.org.za/ about-us/

Since its creation in 1995, the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS) has been working on a strong policy of cooperation between South Africa, France, and the rest of the African continent. The cultural arm of the Embassy of France to South Africa, IFAS works in all fields of artistic creation, with priority given to the cultural and creative industries. Through actions based on co-creation, IFAS encourages and promotes collaboration with key players in the French and South African cultural sectors.