AUTONOMY

Regardless who we are and where we come from, autonomy is in the essence of our capacity to make decisions as individuals, organisations, and societies. In the realms of war and conflict, struggles for rights, self-achievements, and artistic and scientific explorations, autonomy is a complex and distinctive driver for the development of mankind. Throughout history it has referred to the political independence of the Greek city-states and was a predominant motivation for the European wars of religion in the 17th century. In the 18th century, Kant brought it to the centre of theoretical and practical philosophy debates. During the 19th century, the phrase “art for art’s sake” reflected the Romantic movement’s desire to detach art from the stress of rationalism and was the foundation for the development of abstract art in the 20th century. In the scientific world of today and tomorrow it will continue to be a major driver in the development of innovative autonomous.

Where does our autonomy as individuals, artists and researchers end and begin? Can the boundaries be drawn so neatly? How does autonomy relate to contemporary challenges and how we might face them?

More than 30 artists and researchers will be at the AHA festival to invite you to reflect, widen your perspective, explore, test and question your autonomy. Come, learn and contribute, listen and express, experience and be experienced...
Alex Berman is an artist and software developer working at the intersection of art, research and technology. Through the project AI am, he investigates how dance and artificial intelligence can cross-fertilize each other. He is also Lead Developer at Talkamatic, a company developing technology for conversational interfaces. In his presentation, Alex will discuss the risks of superintelligence in relation to his own experience of working with AI artistically. Is a creative AI also a dangerous AI?

Encountering: artistic research in architecture
Anna Maria Orrù, Malgorzata Zboinska, Jon Geib

Encountering exhibits a selection of architecture- and architectural thinking-led artistic research conducted in connection with Chalmers. Contributions from Anna Maria Orrù, Malgorzata Zboinska, and Jon Geib take the form of video and animation clips, publications, visuals and a physical model.

A Youth Voice - Think Outside The Box
Anna Kaczorowska, Gheorghe Maleca, Effrosyni Roussou, Giovanna Gaioni, and Alberta Maria Titis Rum Kuntari

The Exhibition presents results from the 2-day workshop “THINK OUT OF THE BOX” organized by students at Chalmers Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, together with Väland Academy – University of Gothenburg and Hvitfeldtska gymnasi and held on November 9th and 11th, 2017. The aim of the workshop is to identify, measure, define, design, interpret, build, and visualize the idea of “AUTÓNOMY” in relation to three thematic groups: economic, social and environmental sustainability. Students work builds on the contemporary knowledge and discussion within these themes, students’ experience, skills, creativity and openness to new ideas.

The outcomes of the workshop are collected and exhibited in the mobile block of shelves built by students themselves. The idea behind is “to frame” the workshop outcomes and move “freely” in the festival exhibition space. In addition students show a short film documenting activities during the workshop. 

OtoKin
Palle Dahlstedt, Ami Skånberg

In OtoKin, an invisible sound space is explored through ear (Oto) and movement (Kinesis). With eyes closed, you enter a high-dimensional acoustic space, where every small body movement matters. Through this re-translation of three-dimensional body action and position into infinite-dimensional sound texture and timbre, you are forced to re-think and re-learn: Position as place, position as posture, posture as timbre, timbre as a bodily construction. The OtoKin sound space is also shared with other users, with added modes of presence, proximity and interaction. OtoKin is a new work, made specially for the AHA Festival. It will be shown as performance on Tuesday night, and be available as participatory experience on Wednesday morning.

Cohesive Flesh
Malgorzata Zboinska, Delia Dumitrescu

Cohesive Flesh embodies contradictive properties: cohesion and stretchiness. While dormant, it is barely moving, loosely hanging from the ceiling, provoking you to enliven it... But once awakened, its form instantly changes back and forth, fluctuating from thinness to bulkiness, abruptly transforming between the compressed and the expanded states...

Scenography
Rachel Barron, Nathan Clydesdale

The scenography is composed of movable elements that will be re-configured throughout the festival - designed for interaction with performers and audience members. These sculptural components extend from architectural features in the foyer, playing with light, colour and spatial perception.

WORKSHOP
Wednesday 09:00-12:00

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WORKSHOP
Wednesday 13:00-14:00

Tangonomy
Elodie Labonne, Abdel Cuauhtlii

“When dance becomes a tool to better understand interactions... How do we collaborate, listen and speak to each other? Elodie and Abdel invite you to a workshop inspired by the specific communication used between argentinian tango dancers. Broaden your understanding of yourself and of your interactions with others by developing trust in your senses and exploring new ways to communicate.”

Magda Mayas and Per-Anders Nilsson

Magda Mayas performs on a Clavinet/Pianet, an electric piano from the 60s with strings and metal chimes, where she engages with noise and more visceral sound materials, equally extending the instrumental sound palette using extended techniques and devices.

WORKSHOP
Wednesday 12:00-13:00

Is a creative AI also a dangerous AI?
Alex Berman

Alex Berman is an artist and software developer working at the intersection of art, research and technology. Through the project AI am, he investigates how dance and artificial intelligence can cross-fertilize each other. He is also Lead Developer at Talkamatic, a company developing technology for conversational interfaces. In his presentation, Alex will discuss the risks of superintelligence in relation to his own experience of working with AI artistically. Is a creative AI also a dangerous AI?

http://www.ahafestival.se/
**SEMINAR**  
**Mountains and Rivers are Speaking**  
Lars Schmidt  
There are some that will tell you that the world is not there to be used. Most of those same ones will seem to be of no particular use either. Let's call them poets. Oh yes? Then what is the world there for? they asked a poet. It should be loved was the answer. This lecture questions the self-importance displayed by human vision and understanding. It seeks to allow the other-than-human world to be heard and leave enough space to wonder.

**WORKSHOP**  
**Facefuture**  
Peter and Louise Wanselius, Hans Wikkelso  
Facefuture is a special designed workshop on how we could meet the future with an open mind. You will be offered to reflect on issues such as; where does life, art and science begin? Is there any end? You will meet musicians, professors, actors and filmmakers who all offer their personal thoughts about autonomy. This might be the workshop that inspires you to meet the future with your innermost authentic autonomy.

**CONCERT**  
**Björn Meyer**  
A solo performance with Björn Meyer will certainly challenge many preconceived ideas about what an electric bass guitar is capable of as a solo instrument. Deep pulsating ambiences, outer-worldly sonorities, nordic inspired folksongs, archaic sounding anthems and minimal patterns, all melted into one, obvious unity.

**STAND UP PERFORMANCE**  
**Imagine**  
**SPINN**  
**Wednesday 19:00-20:30**  
Who is allowed to share their story? In Imagine there is room for everyone. But how can we be ourselves while co-existing with each other? Four dancers and one musician fill the stage with their personal stories. In Imagine there are no limits how far you can go to feel alive.

* All events are free of charge / Please click on events for more info / The programme is subject to change

**SPEAKERS / PERFORMERS**

Alejandro Aravena  
Alex Berman  
Alexander Dam  
Allan McRobie  
Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt  
Anna Kaczorowska  
Anna Maria Orrù  
Anna-Sophie Springer  
Åsa and Carl Unander-Scharin  
Björn Meyer  
Bugge Wesseltoft  
David Chandler
Delia Dumitrescu

Devdatt Dubhashi

Dougald Hine

Etienne Turpin

Fabrizio Terranova

Fredrik Norén

Jasmin

Jon Geib

Juan Frano Violich

Lennart Löfdahl

Lars Schmidt

Magda Mayas

Malgorzata Zboinska

Maria Mebius Schröder

Marina Cyrino

Martin Nilsson Jacobi

Mikael Kågehäck

Nathan Clydesdale

Palle Dahlstedt

Pamela Lindgren

Patrick Couch

Per Anders Nilsson

Rachel Barron

Sara Roust

SPINN

Tangótica

Zsófia Boros

Wanselius & Wikkelsö

* Please click on the name for more info
ABOUT THE AHA FESTIVAL

The AHA festival explores encounters between art and science during in a three-day event at the Chalmers University of Technology hosted by the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering and the Department of Physics. It is an international festival intending to provide a stage for enlightening and surprising experiences, staging surprises, new thoughts and displaced perspectives that lead to alternative modes of thinking about exploring the world through art and science. We invite scientists (physicists, historians, astronomers, engineers), artists (dancers, musicians, painters, poets, acrobats) who reside in these borderlands and wish to share their vision and work.
The relation between science and art has become more complex, but is just as important to attend to. Their meeting is still that of theory and practice, but also something more: a meeting of causal connections and meaningful coherences, of given conditions and unsuspected possibilities, of the order of things and our own place within it.

Today, "science" no longer refers to systematic knowledge, but rather to a highly professionalised, specialised and often technically advanced activity intended for the production of empirically secure facts. Similarly, "art" is no longer a methodical ability, but rather a complex and autonomous activity comparable to science: the creation of images, sounds, and other forms of sensuous experience with a most immediate effect. Forms that grab hold, shake up, leave us at a loss. Experiences that make us question ourselves and the world around us.

By bringing together science and art, architecture has provided an ideal playing field for such a confrontation for the first two festival in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, October 21–23, the first festival investigated the theme 'embodiment.' In 2015, November 2-4 the festival explored numbers, an underlying element in our lives. In year 2016 the festival was a joint voyage between the Departments of Architecture and Department of Physics to explore the theme 'uni-verse,' the fabric of life. All festivals offer three days of seminars, workshops, conversations, exhibitions, concerts, performances, and mingles, through thought-provoking experiences, hands-on surprises, itinerant perspectives, and savoury ideas. The festival welcomes students and researchers from all universities, and the general public, to turn the searchlight onto the relation between two different– but equally important – human activities; 'Science and art.'

AHA 2016 VIDEO

AHA 2015 VIDEO
AHA 2014 VIDEO