O S E B N O | PERSONAL

Prizadevanja, neuspehi, poskusi in napake
Attempts, Failures, Trials and Errors
kuratorici Tincuta Heinzel in Hillevi Munthe

Na področju elektronskih in pametnih tekstilij so se v preteklosti že dogajala obetavna tehnološka raziskovanja, ki pa niso nikoli zares dosegla svojega potenciala. Toda navkljub takšnim razočaranjem se industrijsko in akademsko raziskovalno delo, kakor tudi umetniške eksploracije, še naprej posvečajo preučevanju možnosti, ki jih ponuja razvoj elektronskih in pametnih tekstilij. Projekt Attempts, Failures, Trials and Errors teh prizadevanj ne želi predstaviti kot naslednjo veliko uspešnico, temveč cilja na poglobljeno razumevanje posameznih faz njihovega razvoja ter pri tem raziskovati že pozabljene poskuse in pristope, manj uspešne poti in medijsko manj izpostavljene nosljive tehnologije ter projekte na področju e-tekstilij. Zato smo zasnovali poziv za doslej neuspešne poskuse in dela, prototipe preizkusnih naprav in vzorce, ter za zavrnjene projekte in znanstvene članke. Zbrane prispevke smo sestavili v "katalog neuspehov", s katerim se želi projekt odzvati na globoko potrebo po oblikovanju kritičnega stališča, ki bo upoštevalo socialne, ekonomske, trajnostne, etične in pravne vidike tehnološkega razvoja na tem področju. Zbirka "prizadevanj, spodrsljajev, poskusov in napak" pa ni namenjena hvaljenju neuspehov, ali minimaliziranju dosežkov na področju nosljivih materialov in e-tekstilij. S preizpraševanjem ideje uspeha in neuspeha projekt izkorišča zmožnost umetnosti, da kritično in hkrati poetično ter samoironično naslavlja sodobne izzive in vprašanja.

V dobi hitrih prototipov, praks "objavi ali propadi" (angl. publish or perish) in start-up tekmovanj, predstavlja pričujoči projekt tudi poskus razmisleka o zastarelosti trenutne tehnološke eksplozije in inovativnosti, pri čemer spodbuja razvoj ekološke perspektive, ki bo upoštevala celoten cikel zasnove, rabe, staranja in degradacije tehnologije. Na stičišču umetniških, antropoloških, znanstvenih in tehnoloških raziskovanj bo "katalog neuspehov" služil kot izhodišče za vzpostavitev svetovalne agencije na področju nosljivih tehnologij in e-tekstilij, ki bo pod svojim okriljem združevala DIY skupnosti, akademike in poslovni sektor iz širšega evropskega konteksta. Če bo "katalog neuspehov" postal tudi komercialni produkt, se bo oblikovala baza podatkov z materiali za raziskovalno delo, povezana s preteklimi projekti na tem področju, ki bo služila za vzpostavitev mreže strokovnjakov/specialistov. Z izmenjavo informacij in spodbujanjem kritičnih debat bi lahko takšna platforma v bližnji prihodnosti igrala vlogo neodvisnega organizma, ki bi pomagal izoblikovati profesionalni kodeks ravnanja za področje razvoja nosljivih tehnologij in e-tekstilnih proizvodov.

Tincuta Heinzel (RO/DE/UK) – koordinatorica projekta. Je umetnica, oblikovalka in kuratorica, ki že več kot desetletje deluje na področju elektronskih tekstilij. Po študiju tekstilnega oblikovanja in kulturne antropologije je zaključila tudi doktorski študij na temo estetike elektronskih in reaktivnih tekstilij na univerzi Pantheon-Sorbonne v Franciji. Je predavateljica na Univerzi Loughborough (UK). Kot Fulbrightova štipendistka je delovala v okviru laboratorija za nanotekstilije na univerzi Cornell (ZDA), kot gostujoča profesorica pa poučuje tudi na univerzi UAUIM v Bukarešti.

Hillevi Munthe (NO) – umetniška koordinatorica. Norveška tekstilna umetnica in umetnostna zgodovinarka. Bila je pobudnica in vodja del na področju mehke tehnologije pri projektu Atelier Nord, ki je raziskoval elektronske tekstilije in elektroniko tkanin v umetniških praksah. Med drugim je bila tudi producentka festivala Piksel.

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Attempts, Failures, Trials and Errors
curated by Tincuta Heinzel and Hillevi Munthe

Within the realm of electronic and smart textiles there have been promising technological investigations that never quite managed to reach their potential. However, despite these disappointments, industrial and academic research, as well as artistic inquiry, continue to explore the possibilities of electronic and smart textiles. Rather than presenting this endeavour as "the next big thing," "Attempts, Failures, Trials and Errors" project seeks to understand the various stages of its development, to explore forgotten attempts and perspectives, less successful paths, less mediatized wearable technologies and e-textiles projects. In order to achieve that, we launched a call for trials and failed works, test-bench prototypes and samples, as well as for rejected projects and scientific papers. By collecting them into a "catalogue of failures" the project answers a deep need for a critical perspective that will take into account social, economic, sustainable, ethical and legal issues of technological development. This collection of "attempts, failures, trials and errors" it is not intended to praise the failures, nor to minimize the successes of wearables and e-textiles. By questioning the idea of failure and success, the project uses art's capacity to critically and, at the same time, poetically and self-ironically, address contemporary challenges and concerns.

In the age of fast prototyping, publish-or-perish, and start-up competitions, our project is also an attempt to reflect on the present technological boom and innovation obsolescence, encouraging an ecological perspective which will take into consideration the whole cycle of conception, consumption, ageing, and degradation of technology. At the crossroads between artistic, anthropological, science and technology inquiry, this "catalogue of failures" will serve as starting point for the establishment of a consultancy agency for wearable technologies and e-textiles, which will bring together the D.I.Y community, the academia and the business environment from a broad European context. If the "catalogue of failures" will become the first product to be commercialized, a database will offer materials for research related to previous projects, and help set up a network of specialists from the field. By exchanging information and launching critical debates, such a platform could, in the near future, play the role of an independent organism that will help to forge professional codes of conduct related to the development of wearable technologies and e-textile products.

Tincuta Heinzel (RO/DE/UK) – project coordinator. Tincuta is an artist, designer and curator who worked in the field of electronic textiles for more then 10 years. After textile design and cultural anthropology studies, she completed a PhD at Paris 1 University Pantheon-Sorbonne (France) on the aesthetics of electronic and reactive textiles. She is a Senior Lecturer at Loughborough University (UK) and visiting professor at UAUIM Bucharest (RO).

Hillevi Munthe (NO) – artistic coordinator. Hillevi Munthe is a Norwegian textile artist and art historian. She was the initiator and the manager for Soft Technology at Atelier Nord, a project that investigated electronic textiles and textile electronics in artistic practices. She has also produced the Piksel festival amongst others.