

How to Find the Soul of a Sailor - Kasia Molga, 2024



Studio Molga is looking for an experienced creative technologist to work on an exciting project with the studio on a freelance basis. Last year the studio was awarded funding from the arts council to host and run interactive workshops with some of the UK's leading creative institutions. Workshops will take place in Summer/ Autumn 20205.

Fact –Liverpool
IN SPACE Gallery (New Real) - Edinburgh
Arbyte - London
Bristol (tbc)

How to Find the Soul of a Sailor is a collaboration with AI algorithms to create a story about the future of the oceans based on the writings of Kasia Molga's late father. When he died he left behind a series of journals from his time as a sailor aboard merchant navy vessels. AI trained on those journals is now used to write new diary entries in his voice and create images from his memories about the future of oceans..

This stage of the project follows on from a successful research and development stage conducted with Inspace gallery and the Scottish AI alliance. The second Phase of the project is a workshop-performance; a way for the public to engage with the project in a new way and be an integral part of the discussion around the use of AI in the creative industries, digital afterlife and near future climate visions. The structure of these sessions will work with a number of prompts that are used to generate more words and sentences that will inform the discussion held by the participants and facilitated by the artist.

The experience is set up like a traditional Ouija board. Used by séances in the 1600's to talk to spirits of the afterlife. AI is often described as the ghost in the machine – these performative experiences take this a step further. In the center of the table will be a metal dial that will spin and point to the first letter from each word before it is shown on the small LED screens.

This part of the project is likely to be a collaboration between a fabricator and technologist to allow for a high-quality finish and seamless interactivity. The technological system will work by a word being inputted into the server and other words being generated on smaller screens that will be next to each person. The technology that is used can be flexible – as there are many ways of achieving the desired outcome.

We envision using Arduino with Raspberry pi stand-alone or connected to Ubuntu Linux OS to run the program that is developed. This must be coded using python and must be set up independently of the technologist being at the performance. We would also like the installation to be triggered by using sensors that all of the participants at the start of the performance – we are suggesting to use piezos for this. Kasia Molga will host the performance events and will be using her own machine to input data into the generative system.

How to apply:

Please register your expression of Interest by sending your portfolio and approach to this work to hello@studiomolga.com.

If you have any questions please contact emily@studiomolga.com.

Meetings will be held w/c 24th of March. If you can not make this week please reach out to us with availability.