# Leaving reality behind (Abstract) Media-hacks, fake news and other narratives The construction of reality in Swiss media art

Dominik Landwehr, Zurich Budapest Talk, May 4, 2017







# Media-hacks, fake news and other narratives The construction of reality in Swiss media art 1998 – 2017

Media Art has never been a very popular discipline in Switzerland. However there is a number of artist and artist groups that have been active in this field for many years with remarkable international success. It is noteworthy that all of them have been constructing their own narrative some or even a brand of their own.

Among the first net artist in Switzerland was the couple Studer/van den Berg with their virtual hotel "Vue des alps". The project started in the 90is and is still active today.

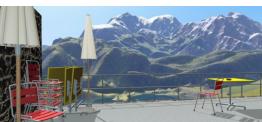
The media art group etoy also belong to the successful Swiss pioneers in the field of media art. They won the Golden Nica at the Ars Electronica as early as 1996 with their internet project "Digital Hijack" and are still active. The group has varied in size over the years and some of their former members have become successful artists too: Hans Bernhard together with his wife lizvlx have been active under the name UBERMORGEN deepening among others the field of successful media hacks. Former etoy agent Gramazio has become a highly successful architect and artist with is partner Mathias Kohler acting as Gramazio/Kohler. The 8bit music label micromusic has been active without disruption since the 90is.

The !Mediengruppe bitnik started a bit later than the previous ones performing projects such as "Delivery for Mr.Assange" but also having a very strong narrative. The Berlin based Swiss media artists Christoph Wachter & Mathias Jud have been awarded a Golden Nica as recently as 2016 for their project "Can you hear me" sending, messages to the US and British embassies and their intelligence services in Berlin. "Tools for the next revolution" is one of there narratives and at the same time also title of one of their projects.

The lecture of Dominik Landwehr examines the different narratives and the construction of reality of the various groups – relating them to other international projects.

# **PHOTO GALLERY**





Studer / Van den Berg Hotel Vue des Alpes





Etoy Tank 10





Wachter & Jud Can you hear me?

Tools for the next revolution





!Mediengruppe Bitnik Delivery for Mr.Assange

## **NOTES ON DOMINIK LANDWEHR**

**Dominik Landwehr** (\*1958) is Head of Pop and New Media in the Directorate of cultural and social affairs of the Federation of Migros Cooperatives (FMC). He is in charge of projects such as the internet platform www.digitalbrainstorming.ch, the youth competition bugnplay.ch and the program "Digital Culture". He holds a PhD in Cultural Media Studies and regularly publishes in various media. He writes regularly on digitization issues at <a href="https://www.digitalbrainstorming.ch">www.digitalbrainstorming.ch</a> and <a href="https://www.sternenjaeger.ch">www.sternenjaeger.ch</a>.

Dominik Landwehr is the editor of the book series Edition Digital Culture (2014 – today) as well as the DIY Handbooks "Homemade" (2006 – 2011).



More photos at: www.dominiklandwehr.net/gallery/v/portrait/

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www.migros-culture-percentage.ch

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Do-it-yourself books**

www.homemade-labor.ch

Home Made Audio Electronics. Basel. Christoph Merian. 2006 (only in German) Home Made Electronic Arts. Basel. Christoph Merian. 2010 (German/English) Home Made Bio Electronic Arts. Basel. Christoph Merian. 2013 (German/English)

#### Edition Digital Culture (EDC). All books German/English

www.edition-digitalculture.ch

EDC 1: Political Interventions. Basel Christoph Merian 2014

EDC 1: Hacking. Basel Christoph Merian 2014

EDC 1: Public Domain. Basel Christoph Merian 2015

EDC 1: Digital Kids. Basel Christoph Merian 2016

EDC 1: Machines and Robots. Basel Christoph Merian 2018



