



MoneyLab: Art, Culture and Financial Activism

10.00-18.00

Saturday 20 January 2018

River Rooms, New Wing

Somerset House, London

Full day £15.00/ £12.00 conc

[Buy tickets here](#)

A day-long programme of workshops, discussions and artistic experimentation exploring the relationship between financial technologies, artistic practice and contemporary culture.

MoneyLab is a programme of critical research and artistic intervention that explores the connections between contemporary art, financial activism and digital culture. Join panels, talks and workshops which inspect the borderlands between critical art-making, decentralised financial technologies, collective organisation, and civil disobedience.

Schedule

Saturday 20 January

10:00 INTRODUCTION

With [Geert Lovink](#) from Institute of Network Cultures and [Martin Zeilinger](#) from Anglia Ruskin University.

10:30 WORKSHOPS

[Offshore Investigation Vehicle – The Demystification Committee](#)

[Total Liquidity Now – Trading in the augmented landscape of Patternist](#)

12:00 DISCUSSION

[Playing to Lose: Gameplay in Art and Finance](#)

Chaired by journalist and campaigner [Brett Scott](#) with speakers including [Andy Morales Coto](#), [Stephanie Polsky](#), [The Demystification Committee](#) and [Kei Kreutler](#)

14:15 WORKSHOPS

[Earth's Cooperative for Economic Fairness – FairCoop](#)

[Data Workers Union – Institute of Human Obsolescence](#)

15:50 DISCUSSION

[Art and Equity? Tokenizing Culture with the Blockchain](#)

Featuring [Jérôme Croisier](#), [Rachel O'Dwyer](#), [Sarah Friend](#), [Marija Bozinovska Jones](#) & [Ruth Catlow](#)

17:20 PRESENTATION

[2nd MoneyLab Reader Book Launch](#) featuring [Geert Lovink](#), [Emily Rosamond](#) and [Nathaniel Tkacz](#).

Session and Workshop Descriptions

Offshore Investigation Vehicle – The Demystification Committee

Half of the existing global wealth has been calculated to be located offshore, stacked in tax havens. But where is offshore? What does it mean to 'go' or 'become' offshore? Can we visit it? The Demystification Committee have infiltrated a number of tax havens and set up an international corporate structure to investigate offshore finance. At the head of this corporate structure is Empire Management Limited, a UK Private Limited Company that invites members of the public to become investors in their self-initiated offshore tax evasion scheme. Join in and explore the tactics Empire Management use to abuse its financial position offshore and find out about the murky world of offshore investment practices.

With [The Demystification Committee](#)

Total Liquidity Now: Trading in the augmented landscape of Patternist

PATTERNIST is a location-based, augmented reality demo game for urban research, sci-fi visions, and alternative economies. It speculates on the appearance of an alien planet hovering above our own, whose augmented terrain becomes visible through the lens of a mobile and desktop game.

In the workshop, participants are invited to develop the game's trading mechanisms through role play and participatory exercises. Facilitating and experimenting with a multi-directional, barter-based trading system, the group will explore the alien geography of the

PATTERNIST-3 planet. The workshop will close with a discussion on designing incentives in alternative economies, autonomous currencies, and market-based decision making.

With [PATTERN.IST](#)

Playing to Lose: Gameplay in Art and Finance

Artists are increasingly adopting game design as a methodology to interrogate and subvert complex financial and political systems. From simulations of fictional companies to live action role play games, a diverse range of situated methods are emerging to expose social and political infrastructures. This discussion will explore to what effects gamification and digital simulation are useful for organising socio-political activism. Is responsible, community-oriented life in contemporary society a 'skill' that can be learned in a game-like environment? If the performance of financial investments can be simulated, can we also simulate the disruption of capitalist systems? How can such simulation become reality?

Chaired by journalist and campaigner [Brett Scott](#) with speakers including [The Demystification Committee](#) and [Kei Kreutler](#)

Earth's Cooperative for Economic Fairness with FairCoop

FairCoop will present the world's first democratically organised and eco-friendly cryptocurrency, FairCoin. The latest FairCoin uses a co-operative model for distributing cryptocurrencies and aims to create a digital currency for a new global economic system. Workshop participants will learn about the development of FairCoin, from the technical elements to the political and social motivations of creating an energy saving and cooperative blockchain. Find out how to setup a FairCoop in your region and how you could join a decentralized network to reduce economic inequality and create a global wealth of abundance for the commons.

With [FairCoop](#)

Data Workers Union with The Institute of Human Obsolescence

In order to shift the imbalance between citizens, surveillance capitalism, and the big data industry, it should be understood that we are not merely users of free online services, but the unpaid workers of tech companies. The Institute of Human Obsolescence (IoHO) advocates for recognising the production of data as a form of labour. Through gatherings, assemblies and collective actions the union aims to establish a collective political discourse in pursuit of our data labour rights. This workshop will explore some of the issues that arise from organising a labour union for digital users and demonstrate the possibilities for monetizing online activity.

With [The Institute of Human Obsolescence](#)

Art and Equity? Tokenizing Culture with the Blockchain

Artists are playing a central role in shaping our understanding of emerging blockchain technologies, and continue to propose exciting visions for how decentralized computation could challenge current social and political power structures. Already, there are a few

experimental blockchain projects that question our core assumptions about ownership, authorship, reproducibility, and authenticity. This panel introduces artistic perspectives on distributed ledger technologies, and brings them into critical dialogue with the emerging blockchain economies. From platform distribution models and new types of digital art markets to hyper-real click-mine farms and self-owning artworks, what can we learn about emerging blockchain technologies from critical artistic practice?

Featuring [Jérôme Croisier](#), [Rachel O'Dwyer](#), [Sarah Friend](#) & [Ruth Catlow](#)

2nd MoneyLab Reader Book Launch with The Institute of Network Cultures

Concluding the day, this session introduced by [Inte Gloerich](#) platforms contributors to this latest publication from the Institute of Network Cultures in Amsterdam and features a collection of essays from artists, academics and activists critically exploring art, finance and technology. This second edition expands on a global network committed to exploring the political and social territories created since the financial crash was inscribed onto the first bitcoin block in 2009. Essays range from the financialization of art, love as a binary proposition on the blockchain, the cashless society, the history of your financial dashboard, and the digital financial surveillance of the poor. Join us to celebrate the launch of the book and listen to a handful of readings from some of the many contributors including [Geert Lovink](#), [Emily Rosamond](#) and [Nathaniel Tkacz](#).