

## **Kristen Roos**

### **From Punched Cards to Personal Computers**

Solo exhibition from 25 October 2021 to 7 January 2022

BELETAGE is excited to announce a solo show of Canadian sound and media artist Kristen Roos including prints, video art as well as new works, first created on vintage computers and then translated into woven textiles on Jacquard looms. About this body of work Kristen Roos writes: „The early personal computers that I am exploring with my weaving designs, the apple IIe, Macintosh Plus, and Commodore Amiga 500, were limited to certain parameters of what was made available to the public. This is in contrast to the more powerful computers that were only available through University and Corporate Labs (NYIT, Bell Labs, Xerox Parc, etc), and the paint systems that were used to create Computer Graphics, Computer Art and Video Art of the late 1960's through the 1980's. I am interested in how these larger systems affected the dawn of the personal computer, and the subsequent paint, animation and digitizing hardware and software that was created for these home computers from the late 1970's through the 1990's. My work also speaks about obsolescence, and the relationship between computers and weaving. Jacquard looms being the first “computers” in a sense, which were programmed and automated using punch cards. Some of the ideas I'm exploring are: -Weaving as stored Information. -Information stored in pattern. -Transmitting stories through weaving. -Documenting obsolescence through weaving“.

The initial idea is that weavings, which were created with the help of punched cards on a Jacquard loom after 1800, can be regarded as the first form of digital images. They are the first examples of images created from data. Kristen Roos' weavings are made on two Jacquard looms from different eras. One is fed by punched cards created by Roos, the other is supported by a modern computer. The respective data sets contain the work designed by Roos on vintage computers. Both looms are operated by one person and can be viewed as an early form of personal computer that performs a specific task. Through its broader historical context, Roos' work contributes to research into the creation of the digital image, which is currently funded by the Canada Council for the Arts. It expands the view of what is considered a personal computer, and what is considered a digital image.

In connection with his research of early personal computers, Roos did prints for which he used, among other things, printing methods from the early days of home computers. His works, which he created in various painting programs from the 1970s onwards on vintage computers, were printed out on a dot matrix printer from the 1980s, scanned and ink jet printed again enlarged. This way, every single needle point was made visible and appreciated.

With the **artist's booklet designed by Kristen Roos**, which will be published for the exhibition at BELETAGE, he shares some results of his media-archaeological research into the origins of paint software, which he has meticulously compiled in a timeline.

**Kristen Roos will perform *Anti-Wave* on 28 and 29 October as part of the Digital Arts Festival in Zurich.** Roos examines the inaudible electromagnetic frequencies of microwaves, telephones and WiFi routers that are ubiquitous today. He receives them with devices that do not recognize them as information, but as something similar to the unwanted noises that were heard during early radio reception. The result is a dense live sound composition.

The exhibition at BELETAGE will open digitally with a **live radio broadcast on 26 October from 7pm to 8pm**. Sound art pieces composed by Kristen Roos on vintage music software as well as short explanations by the artist will be moderated by Andrea Marioni and broadcasted live from the exhibition. The broadcast is created in cooperation with the radio art platform Lumpen Station and can be heard live and later as a podcast via [www.lumpenstation.art](http://www.lumpenstation.art). Hotham Sound will release Kristen Roos' next album Universal Synthesizer Interface Vol. II this fall.

We are thrilled to be able to give you rare full range access to a multifaceted work.



**Kristen Roos** (born 1975) lives and works in Vancouver, Canada. His practice includes a wide range of media including electronic and electroacoustic music composition, sound design, sound installation, animation, printmaking, textiles and media archaeology. He completed a BFA at Concordia University in Montréal and an MFA from the University of Victoria.

Some of the spaces and events he's created work for include:

BB15 (Linz), LOM Space (Bratislava), Ars Electronica (Linz), Wave Farm (Acra, NY), Kunstradio (Wien), RadioRevolten (Halle), ISEA 2015, Radius (Chicago), Studio Loos (Den Haag), Velak (Wien) Interpenetration (Graz), Noise=Noise (UK) VIVO Media Arts & Vancouver New Music Festival (Vancouver), Surrey Art Gallery (Surrey, BC), Nuit Blanche & NAISA (Toronto), Skol & Article (Montreal) , Sound Symposium & Eastern Edge Gallery (Neufundland), La Chambre Blanche & Le Lieu (Quebec City), Destroy Vancouver & Quiet City & Big Joy (Vancouver).

He has received funding for numerous projects through the Canada Council for the Arts, and BC Arts Council. His writing on sound and radio art appears in the Radius GRIDS booklet published by Half Letter Press, the Errant Bodies publication Radio Territories, and the New Star Books publication Islands of Resistance: Pirate Radio in Canada.

NFT works can be found on Foundation - pieces of art which speak to the history of paint software for early personal computers (using software from the 1980's and 90's), and the monetization of digital art.

More info: <https://kristenroos.ca>

**BELETAGE** is a non-profit exhibition space founded in 2018. It is based in Zurich's Seefeld. The art space is a guest in a chiropractic practice and is supported by the art association of the same name.

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### **Digital opening with a live broadcast from the exhibition**

In collaboration with the radio art platform Lumpen Station  
26 October 2021, 7-8 pm, access through [www.lumpenstation.art](http://www.lumpenstation.art)

### **Performance Digital Arts Festival 2021 in Zurich**

28 and 29 October 2021, Kunstraum Walcheturm, 7 pm  
[www.da-z.net](http://www.da-z.net)

