

Æstetisk Seminar

Æstetisk Seminar er tilrettelagt af Birgitte Stougaard Pedersen og Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Institut for Kommunikation og Kultur, Aarhus Universitet

Hanna Gerda Brøndal & Andrea Tešanović

Honey, Did You Charge the Robot? A Seminar on Robotic Aesthetics and Intimacy

Ideas about robots have haunted the human imagination since antiquity's self-moving automata, though it was Karel Čapek's 1920 theatre play *R.U.R.* that finally gave them the name, *robota*. They have always been performers and vibrant images: technological artefacts born of cultural fantasies, protagonists of countless science-fiction futures. Today, they inhabit our public institutions — factories, schools, hospitals, shops — and are discreetly crossing into our most private space: the home.

This talk moves past questions of function and utility to ask how aesthetics shapes the ways we encounter, imagine, and form relationships with robots. Focusing on the intimate spaces of domestic life, from speculative life-sized sex bots to soft robotics and non-anthropomorphic companions, Brøndal and Tešanović ask what happens when robots, surpassing their instrumental role, start living alongside us in our homes. Drawing on art history, aesthetics, science fiction, theatre and performance, and current research in Human–Robot Interaction (HRI), the seminar traces the unfolding human-robot intimacies.

Torsdag den 29. oktober 2026, Kl. 14:15-16:00

Kasernen, bygning 1584, lokale 126

Alle er velkomne / All are welcome