



CYFEST 16: Archive of Feelings. A Journey

September 12 — October 1, 2025

Aether Contemporary Art Gallery

Graciano Sánchez 220-A, Colonia Lindavista, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

CYLAND MediaArtLab presents

International Media Art Festival CYFEST 16 at Aether Contemporary Art Gallery

CYLAND MediaArtLab, in collaboration with Aether Contemporary Art Gallery, is pleased to announce the 16th edition of the International Media Art Festival CYFEST: *Archive of Feelings. A Journey* in San Luis Potosí. As one of the longest-running international media art festivals, CYFEST brings together artists, curators, engineers, and media thinkers from around the world acting as a platform for both emerging and established creators working in interactive installations, sound, video art, XR/VR environments, algorithmic composition, and hybrid forms. CYFEST is a nomadic exhibition series—its 16th edition began in Yerevan, Armenia, continued in Mexico City, and is next opening at Aether Gallery in San Luis Potosí from September 12 to October 1.

This year's theme, '*Archive of Feelings. A Journey*,' explores the complex relationship between emotional life and technological environments. It considers both the personal and collective dimensions of memory, perception, and inner experience—foregrounding the contradictions between human sensitivity and the impersonal nature of digital systems. The project proposes a return to emotional awareness as a form of resistance against depersonalization, while also acknowledging that new technologies are built from and upon archives of human knowledge and feeling.

The exhibition presents a range of works—from sound installations and algorithmic video to XR environments and robotic forms—that investigate how emotions are preserved, glitched, or lost in translation through technological systems. Rather than offering a nostalgic view of the past or a utopian vision of the future, CYFEST 16 becomes a site to examine how memory is formed, recorded, and manipulated—inviting the audience to engage with technology not only as a tool, but as a mediator of the human condition.

The exhibition opens with a live audiovisual performance that activates the space through sound, image, and presence.

Opening Night: Friday, September 12, 2025, 7:30 PM

Curators

Anna Frants, Elena Gubanova, Alexandra Dementieva, Lidiia Griaznova, Sergei Komarov, Manuel Cocho Ursini

Artists

Alexandra Dementieva, Anna Frants, Alexey Grachev, Elena Gubanova & Ivan Govorkov, Sergei Komarov & Lidiia Griaznova, Anna Martynenko, Alexander Terebenin

Featuring Installations

Anna Frants. Simple Pleasures, installation series, 2021–2024

Anna Frants's work is characterized by her innovative use of technology in artistic expression through interactive installation. Exploring the intersection of technology and human experience examining themes of perception, contemplation, and the relationship between traditional cultural concepts and contemporary technological realities. This robotic flipbook installation, drawing from thousands of old photographs, revives anonymous lives through kinetic memory.

Elena Gubanova & Ivan Govorkov. Wind of Changes, installation, 2018

Global headlines are transformed into wind patterns in this poetic, data-driven installation. Windsocks mounted on aerodrome masts turn toward countries most frequently mentioned in real-time news feeds. Invisible like the wind, information flows shape our emotions and worldview—always moving, never fully graspable. This installation becomes both a metaphor for and meditation on the transient, elusive nature of truth in a media-saturated reality.

Alexandra Dementieva. The Missive, interactive tapestry (2010), AR installation (2019–2025)

An interactive installation that merges traditional tapestry weaving with augmented reality to explore new forms of communication. Woven with binary code, the textiles encode knowledge about the cosmos, life, and creation, transforming fabric into a digital-age time capsule. Activated through AR, the work reveals hidden layers, inviting viewers into a dialogue between past and future, craft and code, memory and imagination.

Alexandra Dementieva. Planet Kquaan, series of prints/AR and videos, 2022–2025

Planet Kquaan presents an imaginative world inhabited by the Kquaanians—microscopic, sentient life forms inspired by the resilience of tardigrades yet entirely alien in nature. Created using AI tools and developed across prints, augmented reality, and video, the series explores the limits of machine-generated creativity in visualizing non-human intelligence.

Sergei Komarov & Lidiia Griaznova. Double Pendulum, sound installation, 2025

Inspired by Steve Reich's experimental ethos, this sound installation is both a phase and process composition—set in motion and left to evolve autonomously. A double pendulum, with a shotgun microphone as its lower arm, swings unpredictably through space. As it randomly passes a speaker, bursts of feedback emerge—ephemeral, chaotic, and governed by invisible forces—turning chance into sound.

Anna Martynenko. Mesozoic, sound installation, 2024

Mesozoic offers listening as an act of temporal excavation transforming scientific memory into acoustic form. Casts of ancient hydrosaur bones emerge from concrete debris like fossilized seeds breaking through geological time. From within these fractured forms, sound becomes a medium of temporal collapse: the voices of extinct beings and their living echoes—reptiles, birds, insects—resonate together. This speculative field recording reanimates a world long gone, blurring distinctions between natural history and urban present.

Alexander Terebenin. Horizon Line, video installation, 2009

Three video channels portray crumbling building walls as desolate, featureless landscapes. These eroded surfaces resemble the Earth at the dawn or dusk of time—an abstract archive of decay, silence, and memory etched in plaster and rust.

Alexey Grachev. Sense of Proportion, installation, 2014

An ultra-minimalist installation built with AtTiny 45 microcontrollers and vibrational motors, this work focuses on the barely perceptible. Through subtle pulses of motion, *Sense of Proportion* invites viewers to tune in to the overlooked, the quiet, and the intimate edge of perception.

CYLAND MediaArtLab is a nonprofit media laboratory and arts organization founded in 2007 by independent artists and curators. Bridging art, science, and technology, CYLAND promotes collaboration between artists, engineers, and programmers. It initiates exhibitions, workshops, sound and video programs, and supports the creation, presentation, and archiving of media art worldwide. CYLAND is the founder and organizer of CYFEST, now in its 16th edition.

CYFEST is a nomadic international media art festival founded by a group of independent artists and curators in 2007. Since its inception in 2007, CYFEST's main concerns have been to examine the dialogue between various visual languages and technology cultures, and thus to explore a way of communing with both art professionals and scientific communities. As a decentralized global network CYFEST unites artists, curators, educators, engineers, programmers, and media activists all over the world, and creates a platform for mapping, mediation, and documentation of new media art on different regional and international levels. Each year, the festival program includes several exhibition projects, sound art, video and educational programs.

AETHER is a contemporary art and design gallery network located in the arid highlands of San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Rooted in the belief that there is no boundary between art and applied arts—everything is art—it serves as a platform for avant-garde proposals that emerge from the region's unique cultural and natural landscape. Inspired by the identity of the desert, AETHER reflects a deep connection between nature and society, where nature defines the parameters that shape civilization. Embracing the contemporary as what is created today, AETHER fosters bold, experimental expressions across disciplines. More than just exhibition spaces, the galleries act as bridges linking creativity, environment, and community.

CYFEST 16 is organized by CYLAND MediaArtLab. The project's general sponsor is **Frants Foundation**.

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