

WORKSHOP PROJECT SHEET

Anno Accademico / Academic Year 2024/2025

Titolo Workshop / Title and subtitle:

US AND THEM - WORKING WITH GENERATIVE MACHINES

A cura di / By:

Proposed by: Raffaele Simongini

Guest lecturer: Andrea Gatopoulos

Indirizzato a / Intended audience:

-to all students

Numero di partecipanti / Number of participants:

Min 12 - Max 30

Requisiti richiesti / Requirements:

- English Language
- a basic knowledge of editing software is required.
- supports to be brought into the classroom: personal laptop

Durata e Crediti / Duration and Credits:

30 hours – 2 FC

Periodo di svolgimento / Course period:

13-17 October 2025

Giorni, orari ed aule di svolgimento / Days, times, classrooms:

Monday 13 October from 10.00 to 17.00 (1 hour lunch)

Tuesday 14 October from 10.00 to 17.00 (1 hour lunch)

Wednesday 15 October from 10.00 to 17.00 (1 hour lunch)

Thursday 16 October from 10.00 to 17.00 (1 hour lunch)

Friday 17 October from 10.00 to 17.00 (1 hour lunch)

RUFA LIBETTA – ROOM G14

Breve descrizione / Short description:

Us and Them is a filmmaking workshop done with generative tools, artificial intelligence and software, which aim is to explore and familiarize, from a theoretical and practical point of view, with all the available generative photography and cinema tools.

The goal is to show how to keep your own independence, taste and aesthetic choices when using AI, not to fall prey of its standardization, how to integrate it into a normal workflow, and how to deal consciously with all the ethical implications of using these tools.

In the first part of the workshop, we're going to go through the explanation of how a GAN works, trying to understand how to control its data to better shape the output, and how to escape censorship and biases by using open-source tools and/or exploiting the software glitches.

We're going to watch many films and artworks by AI artists such as Jon Rafman, Paul Trillo, Ethereal Moon, Niceaunties, Holly Herndon, Frank Manzano and others.

We'll go through the technicalities of using AI and making films with it, and teach how to use RunwayML, Midjourney, Flux1, LumaAI, Kling, Leiapix and Firefly.

In the last two days, the students will form groups to make their own works.

A work of poetry from a public domain author will be assigned to each of the groups, and by working closely together and generating images, we will make an anthology of video-poetry made with AI which would eventually make a collective film by the class that we will screen in the last day.

Short Biography

Andrea Gatopoulos is a film producer, director, and distributor, and a member of the European Film Academy (EFA). Born in Pescara, Abruzzo, Italy, in 1994,

he currently resides in Rome, where he graduated cum laude in 2016 in Modern Literature with a thesis titled "Virtual reality and image culture in the civilization of entertainment."

He founded Il Varco, a publishing house and production company, through which he produced 29 short films, 4 feature films, and published 11 books. As the artistic director of Il Varco – International Short Film Festival, he also established the monthly screening Short Days in Rome, the film distribution company Gargantua Film and the virtual cinema residency Nouvelle Bug, that produced 76 short films from 20 countries. His film productions have been featured in over 120 festivals worldwide including Cannes, Venice, Locarno and Rotterdam.

As a director, he shot "Materia Celeste" in 2019 and "Polepole" in 2021. In 2020, he worked alongside Werner Herzog on his film Accelerator in Leticia, Colombia, where he developed the filmed correspondence "Letters to Herzog" and the short film "Flores del precipicio." He was

selected as a finalist for Premio Zavattini 2021/2022. In 2022, he presented "Happy New Year, Jim," shot entirely inside video games and produced by Nieminen Film and Naffintusi, at the 54th Quinzaine des Réalisateurs during Cannes 2022.

In 2023, he participated in Locarno Spring Academy with Radu Jude, where he made the film "Eschaton Ad." In August 2023, he studied with Apichatpong Weerasethakul in his workshop in Yucatan, Mexico. His feature documentary "A Stranger Quest," shot between the USA and Canada, was screened at the 41st Turin Film Festival in November 2023. In 2024, he was invited to be part of Berlinale Talents, and his short film "The Eggregores' Theory" opened the 39th Venice Film Critics Week, winning the prize from Centro Nazionale del Cortometraggio.