



**Selected Bios:**

**Metahaven**

Metahaven: Design Research, based in Amsterdam and Brussels, is a think tank focusing on design, visual identity and the political. Its current partners are Vinca Kruk, Daniel van der Velden and Gon Zifroni. Meta Haven's aim is, through design research, to re-think political potentialities in design and to generate visual-theoretical discourses around both commissioned and non-commissioned topics, resulting in projects in the area of the hypothetical and the proposal, as well as in direct action. Metahaven, in its current configuration, is functioning as a connective tissue between theoretical and visual positions. While the collective argues that new connections between design and theory are needed, at the same time it rejects that these should operate on the basis of a mutual license to restrict the other. In other words, Meta Haven argues for a design theory where the jouissance of visual imagination is allowed full space.

**Natalie Jerimijenko**

Her work is described as experimental design, hence xDesign, as it explores the opportunity new technologies present for non violent social change. Her research centers on structures of participation in the production of knowledge, and information and the political and social possibilities (and limitations) of information and emerging technologies -- mostly through public experiments. In this vein, her work spans a range of media

from statistical indices (such as the Despondency Index, which linked the Dow Jones to the suicide rate at San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge) to biological substrates (such as the installations of cloned trees in pairs in various urban micro-climates) to robotics (such as the development of feral robotic dog packs to investigate environmental hazards). The Environmental Health Clinic develops and prescribes locally optimized and often playful strategies to effect remediation of environmental systems, producing measurable and mediagenic evidence, and coordination diverse projects to effective material change.

**Jonathan Cecil**

Jonathan Cecil is a visual artist working and living in Los Angeles. His work focuses on the reconstitution and transformation of media through digital processes. He graduated from University of California Santa Barbara with a BA in Studio Art in 2000, and is currently pursuing an MFA in Design Media Art at University of California Los Angeles. Jonathan is a resident at the Game Lab at UCLA, and supervisor of the UCLA Design Media Art fabrication lab.

**Aram Bartholl**

In his art work Aram Bartholl thematizes the relationships between net data space and public every day life. "In which form does the network data world manifest itself in our everyday life? What returns from cyberspace

into physical space? How do digital innovations influence our everyday actions?" Through his installations, workshops and performances Bartholl developed a unique way to discuss the impact of the digital era on society.

In his series of physical objects recreated from digital space and a series of light installations he questions the technology driven society and the tension of public on- and offline space. Workshops interventions and performances in public play a central role in his interest to create offline social platforms and situations to discuss day to day life in the era of Google, Facebook, Twitter and co.

**Sherry Turkle**

Professor Turkle writes on the "subjective side" of people's relationships with technology, especially computers. She is an expert on mobile technology, social networking, and sociable robotics. Profiles of Professor Turkle have appeared in such publications as The New York Times, Scientific American, and Wired Magazine. She has been named "woman of the year" by Ms. Magazine and among the "forty under forty" who are changing the nation by Esquire Magazine. She is a featured media commentator on the social and psychological effects of technology for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, the BBC, and NPR, including appearances on such programs as Nightline, Frontline, 20/20, and The Colbert Report.

**Slavoj Zizek**

Slavoj Zizek has published over 50 books (translated into 20 languages) on topics ranging from philosophy and Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, to theology, film, opera and radical politics. He was a candidate for, and nearly won, the Presidency of his native Slovenia in the first democratic elections after the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1990. According to a recent profile in The New Yorker, Slovenia has a "reputation disproportionately large for its size due to the work of Slavoj Zizek."

**Jonah Lehrer**

Lehrer graduated from Columbia University with a major in neuroscience where he examined the biological process of memory in Professor Eric Kandel's Lab.[1] He was also editor of the Columbia Review for two years. [2] He then studied 20th century literature and philosophy at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.[3] He is a contributing editor at Wired, Scientific American Mind, National Public Radio's Radiolab, and has written for The New Yorker, Nature, Seed, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The Boston Globe.[4] Jonah Lehrer is also featured in brief informational sessions on the television show "Brink", on the science channel. He currently writes the "Head Case" column for The Wall Street Journal.