

Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer

ToBee



computer animation

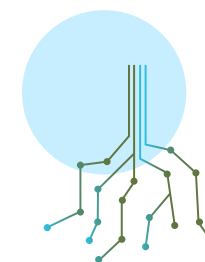
Bees and other insects are essential for the human survival. Without their pollination effort, we would not be able to enjoy many fruits and vegetables, materials for clothing and our housing. Besides their importance to the eco-system, the value of insect pollination is now estimated to go into the billions. But the rapid decrease of insect populations during the past two human generations calls for urgent action. There is a saying that when the bees die, humans will go extinct as well. As artists we want to raise awareness about the interconnection between us and the insect world. ToBee is a computer animation where generated bees form complex flying patterns and short slogans; they remind us to act responsibly, protect nature and choose "To bee or not to bee."



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Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau are internationally renowned media artists, researchers and pioneers of interactive art. They worked 10 years in Japan as Associate Professors at the IAMAS Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences in Gifu, Japan and as Researchers and Artistic Directors at the ATR Advanced Telecom-munications Research Lab in Kyoto Japan. Before they were artists-in-residence at the MIT CAVS in Cambridge US, artists-in-residence at the NCSA National Center for Supercomputing Applications Beckmann Institute in Champaign Urbana, IL, USA and artists-in-residence at the NTT-InterCommunication Center in Tokyo. In 2004 they set up the department for Interface Cultures at the University of Art and Design in Linz, Austria where they are both professors.

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