

## Transcript of the Lecture Performance:

# LIVING IN LIKELIHOODS-HIPPO- TIMES

*Martina Leeker aka Lotte Leaker, Activist for better digital Futures. Like to leak, need to leak. Aachen/Berlin, 2024/2025*

*Part of the Lecture Performance: Take Care encountering Likelihoods - Against a New World-saving Ontology*

*Performance during: 4th POM Conference, RWTH Aachen University. Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research (c:re). April 22-27, 2024. <https://www.pomconference.org/pom-aachen-2024/>*

*Performed within the Workshop: Probing Non-Anthropocentric Vulnerabilities for More-Than-Human Care, by: Martina Leeker (Universität Köln) and Konstanze Schütze (PH Karlsruhe), Care Research Lab. Track 6: Vulnerability and Caring: Perspectives and Challenges, April 22, 2024.*

*Lotte Leaker performs in front of a video projection with films showing leaders of the training-camp "LIKELIKE-ALL-ONE-NESS for better futures", including Timothy Leary, Herman Kahn, USCO, and OMSK Social Club. Her reports on the training-camp come from an audio-track.*

*During the whole performance she is unrelentingly running on the spot, jumping, performing figures from Yoga, falling, rolling, and trundling on the sole, getting up; called "movements-performance". She is getting more and more exhausted.*

## PART 1 – Lotte's appearance

*Lotte Leaker was watching the lecture performance by Fanny Cyberton and Fanny Cybertron – the Avatar, sitting on a chair in the front row. As the lecture finishes, she enters the stage. She is wearing pink high heels, taking them off once on stage. She starts her movements-performance in front of the video projection with psychedelic images from the 1960s.*

**Lotte's voice from the audio track – breathlessly and agitated:**  
I'm Lotte Leaker. The motto of my life is: like to leak, need to leak.

As an influencer and activist for global care and democracy in digital cultures, I had been invited by the organizers of “LIFELIKE-ALL-ONE-NESS for better futures” to participate as an observer of our times in one of their training-camps.

I lived three awful months with dubious talks, seminars, performances and rituals.

I’m emotionally, affectively, and intellectually irritated, and even really devastated; I’m done, I’m completely done.

#### Film Clips:

*MIT Debate on LSD: Dr. Jerry Lettvin + Dr. Timothy Leary.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq3Fp-xpOI0> (Min. 17:35–18:11)

*Timothy Leary – How to operate your brain.* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQq\\_XmhBTgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQq_XmhBTgg) (Min. 5:04–5:31)

## PART 2 – Lotte reports on a workshop with Timothy Leary

### Lotte’s voice from the audio track:

It started with lectures and happenings by Timothy Leary. It is promising, it is tempting, it is seductive, it is counterculture.

And it is terrifying, just horrifying. PEU A PEU it became a cybernetic brain war, a project of re-programming brains and human evolution by the use of technology, to become a hybrid ONENESS beyond any individual control.

#### Film Clips:

*Incredibly Rare Interview With Timothy Leary & Allen Ginsberg About LSD.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4RPQlkypLo>

*Turn on, tune in, drop out.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTCxINKT7I4>

*Dr. Timothy Leary explains his MIND MIRROR computer program.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oabRxvjf9k>

## PART 3 – Lotte reports on a Think Tank with Herman Kahn

### Lotte’s voice from the audio track:

We had a seminar on Think Tanks and Scenarios with Herman Kahn and assistants, who once thought about the options of engaging a nuclear war. The Think Tanks were planned as a work on alternative futures, aiming for “thinking the unthinkable”, without being limited by norms, restrictions, and prejudices. This work has been overwhelming: The speculations on other worlding became a pure fun-play beyond any anchoring in a lived reality, and they remained intriguingly and harmfully ambivalent. Every scenario had positive and negative aspects without any chance to skip the negative ones: a disaster.

Film Clip:

*Herman Kahn from BBC documentary Towards Tomorrow: A Utopia 1968.*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0295vks>

## PART 4 - Lotte reports on USCO (Performance group from the 1960s)

### Lotte's voice from the audio track:

The performance group USCO, called US. Company, was part of the training-camp.

I quote from Life Magazine from 1966, specifying:

"Amid throbbing lights, dizzying designs, swirling smells, swelling sounds, the world of art is 'turning on.' The bizarre amalgam of painting, sculpture, photography, electronics and engineering is aimed at inducing the hallucinatory effects and intensified perceptions that LSD, marijuana and other psychedelic (or mind-expanding) drugs produce—but without requiring the spectator to take drugs. Viewers . . . become disoriented from their normal time sense and preoccupations and are lifted into a state of heightened consciousness. In effect, the art may send them on a kind of drugless 'trip.' The spectators are immersed in a contemplative, mystical environment created by USCO. Sitting around an aluminum column, spectators listen to a collage of stereo sounds and smell burning incense while watching paintings with pulsating lights. The USCO artists call their congenial wrap-around environment a 'be-in' because the spectator is supposed to exist in the show rather than just look at it."

(Psychedelic Art. 1966. In *Life Magazine*, *LSD ART. New Experience that bombards the Senses*, No. 9.

<https://time.com/3881126/lsd-inspired-art-photos/>).

Such psychedelic art is not nearly as potent as LSD or other mind-expanding drugs but most of its techniques do have a direct physical and mental effect, either tranquilizing or disturbing.

### With pictures from:

<https://www.trippingly.net/lsd-studies/2018/6/11/lsd-art-from-life-magazine-1966;>

[https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5ab926f8a9e0287fbf928015/1528770199870-AE63YOUVLVOLMOZUOYFIG/IMG\\_0217.JPG?format=1500w;](https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5ab926f8a9e0287fbf928015/1528770199870-AE63YOUVLVOLMOZUOYFIG/IMG_0217.JPG?format=1500w;)

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### Film Clips:

USCO, "Building the Tabernacle". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdU4eHTO4zc> (Min. 8:46 – 9:43)

USCO, "Hubbub". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8jKBN1ZzrU> (Min. 0:59 – 1:29)

## PART 5: LOTTE reports on OMSK SOCIAL CLUB

### Lotte's voice from the audio track:

Finally, we had a workshop and performance with OMSK Social Club, called "S.M.I2.L.E.- A trip into Synesthesia" (Film: S.M.I2.L.E – A trip into Synesthesia 2019; Figueroa 2020).

With this we came back to Timothy Leary's cybernetic brain war for a collective expansion of consciousness, especially his concept of a transhuman evolution, involving: Space Migration, Increasing Intelligence and Life Extension (S.M.I2.L.E.) (Leary 1977; Future Conscience. 2010). He coined S.M.I2.L.E as the next step, following his LSD-psychedelics.

The crucial, intriguing and devastating point is that with OMSK a bridge had been built, relating the disastrous history of psychedelic-technocratic programming-hybris to the ontology of Lifelike-ONENESS. The importance of the analog world, nature, and matter is reclaimed as part of the techno-human togetherness for better worlding through the forced generation of extended consciousness, saving the earth and spreading euphoria and hope.

### Film Clip:

Omsk Social Club. *S.M.I2.L.E – A trip into Synesthesia*, 2019. <https://aos.arebyte.com/contents/omsk-social-club-s-m-i2-l-e/>

## PART 6: – Lotte reads aloud a LETTER FROM THE AVATAR

*Lotte stops her movements-performance. She is putting on a raincoat. She takes a small bag, fetching out a lipstick and applies the very red color of this make up on her lips. She takes out a large black spectacle frame and puts the glasses on. Finally, she grasps a letter from the bag and starts to read it aloud.*

### Lotte reads the letter:

Dear Lotte,

don't worry about your confusion. It is the price for the unsolvable ambiguity of the ambivalent constitution of the lifelikeness ontology; it HAS positive and problematic sides at the same time.

Your doubts are an essential warning system for problems with the new narrative and discourse of lifelikeness. Caring for science, research, art, and technology means to reconstruct their conditions and their history. This enables the potentials for other worlding to come through, because the governmental traps are identified and domesticated. We need critical thinkers to exploit the power of ambivalences and to avoid the problems of the past, for today and tomorrow.

## The End

## Material:

### Bibliography

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### Films

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq3Fp-xp0lO>

Further information: Crow, Jonathan. 2016. The Historic LSD Debate at MIT: Timothy Leary v. Professor Jerome Lettvin (1967). In *Open Culture*.

<https://www.openculture.com/2014/09/the-historic-lsd-debate-at-mit.html>

+ Timothy Leary - How to Operate Your Brain. 1993.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQq\\_XmhBTgg&t=23s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQq_XmhBTgg&t=23s)

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[https://www.openculture.com/2012/11/how\\_to\\_operate\\_your\\_brain\\_a\\_user\\_manual\\_by\\_timothy\\_leary\\_.html](https://www.openculture.com/2012/11/how_to_operate_your_brain_a_user_manual_by_timothy_leary_.html)

+ Incredibly Rare Interview With Timothy Leary & Allen Ginsberg About LSD. 1967.

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+ Turn on, tune in, drop out. Timothy Leary. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTCxINKT7l4>

+ Dr. Timothy Leary explains his MIND MIRROR computer program. 1985.

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0295vks>

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+ USCO, "Hubbub". 1964. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8jKBN1ZrU>

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