Artists journey down the electronic superhighway

Whitechapel Gallery
by **José da Silva** | 01 January 16

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's Surface Tension (2007). Photo: Maxime Dufour

An exhibition opening this month at the Whitechapel Gallery explores the impact of computer and internet technologies on artists over the past 50 years. The exhibition of more than 70 artists, including Amalia Ulman and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, is inevitably weighted towards the present, reflecting "a set of technologies that have really come into their own in the 21st century", says the curator, Omar Kholeif. He says that the exhibition focuses on artists who critically engage "with the parameters of the internet as a form, a space, a noun, a concept".

The reverse chronology of the show allows visitors to "link the recent emergence of internet-aware practices back to the context of earlier forms of experimentation", he says. Older works, such as those by Nam June Paik, may appear dated, but they reveal how quickly artists can adopt new technologies today as they hurtle down the electronic superhighway—a term coined by Paik. The show is supported by Phillips auction house.

• *Electronic Superhighway (2016–1966), Whitechapel Gallery, London, 29 January-15 May*