





Project

Title Automaten
Type Installation
Date 01 2001
Client visomat inc.
Place Berlin, Germany

Performance

Conception
Planning
Design
Realisation
Maintenance

Cooperators

Sven Gareis / Jukebox
Alexander Baumgardt / Graphics
Olaf Mach / Digital Best Robot
Thomas Laubner / Analyst
Hans Hübner / Digital Development

Fred Rubin / Interior
Agata Kurecki / Curator
Mina Hagedorn / Curator
Norbert Hartl / Digital Development
Stella Heilmann / Digital Development



Automaten was a private club, conceived and initiated by a group of media-space artists with the aim of preserving automated culture and encouraging the artistic analysis of automation. The clubroom in Berlin-Mitte functioned as a fully automated bar, where a remodelled and reprogrammed coffee automat controlled the door, monitored the room and ran an audio-video jukebox, which provided sounds and images by DJs and VJs.

Automaten was running a website available to its members with complete constructions and logistic information about itself. The membership fee was 30.00 EUR, including a magnetic ID card, that opened the door. Everyone was welcome.

Members let themselves in by swiping a magnetic card at the door. Inside the 35-square-metre space Euros can be exchanged for automarken, the Automaten currency. Snacks and gadgets obtained from a variety of vending machines. Additionally the space featured highspeed wireless internet connectivity and a on-site terminal.

Automaten had an ongoing program of guestautomats, exhibitions, lectures and screenings, which addressed, reflected and speculated on the use and implications of automation and technology in society. First guestautomats were a vintage ATARI video game machine from the 80's and an interactive, soundgenerating household ladder. Talks have for example included a lecture on computer interface-design and a presentation of digital shelters.

Live music performances and narrowcastings of DJs and VJs complemented the program series. Members started to use the space for their own ideas: meetings, internet-workshops, birthday parties, etc.

Automaten closed in September 2006 after almost 3 years of automated operation.