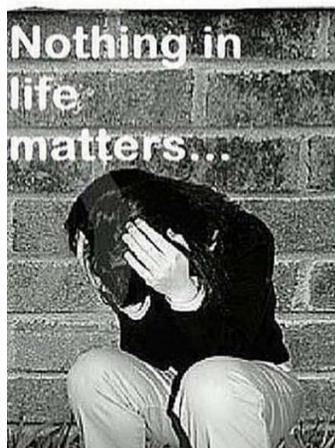


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## RHIZOME ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR ITS 2019–20 PROGRAM, INCLUDING NEW ARTIST-LED RESEARCH TOPICS, UPCOMING CALLS FOR MICROGRANTS, AND EXHIBITION TOUR DATES

### Nihilism

Millennials



Gen Z kids



*Nothing in Life Matters: Nihilism*, 2018. Meme found on Politigram. Digital file courtesy Joshua Citarella

**New York, NY...** Rhizome, the leading born-digital art and culture organization and longtime affiliate of the New Museum, is thrilled to announce details of its 2019–20 program. Building on the success of the “Net Art Anthology” initiative and the exhibition “The Art Happens Here: Net Art’s Archival Poetics,” which is beginning a national tour, Rhizome introduces a new research-based program structure to begin this fall. In this new model, Rhizome’s full range of activities—publishing, commissioning, digital preservation, events, and exhibitions—will be aligned with urgent questions animating digital culture.

#### **Artistic Research**

Over the next year, Rhizome will introduce a new research-based program structure that will take up topics developed in conversation with artists and researchers in its community, and explore those topics through public events, online publishing, exhibitions, commissions, and preservation. For the 2019–20 program, the guiding research topics will be: **Info-Wars**, on political radicalization and the internet; **Money as Medium**, exploring artistic interventions into cryptocurrency, economy, and debt; and **Making Kin**, on new and alternative communitarian infrastructure in the context of climate crisis.

For Info-Wars, the focus of fall 2019, Rhizome will surface artistic and critical research on weaponized information, while considering alternative models for forming political communities and movements online. This research will be anchored by a commission by artist

and writer Joshua Citarella, who will also co-organize a public event with Gen Z activists at the New Museum on October 5, 2019. In 2018, Citarella published the essay “Politigram & the Post-left,” a comprehensive study of meme-articulated politics on Instagram and other social media platforms, which was highly influential to the fall research topic.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has made a \$45,000 award to Rhizome for the project “Early Online Communities in Context,” which will support historical research, publishing, and preservation activities related to the Making Kin topic. With this grant, Rhizome’s preservation and artistic teams will work with archives from The Thing, a Bulletin Board System (BBS) focusing on contemporary art and cultural theory, and, in partnership with the Initiative for Indigenous Futures, CyberPowWow, a graphical chat room that hosted works by and conversations among Indigenous artists. A convening addressing both will be held in early 2020 at the New Museum.

Further details, anchor commissions, and activities for subsequent research topics will be announced throughout the year.

### **Net Art Microgrants**

In 2015, Rhizome launched its microgrant program, awarding \$500–\$1,500 to anyone with a compelling vision for net art through an annual open-call. Microgrants will now be awarded on a semi-rolling basis throughout the program season, aligned with the artistic research topics.

Today Rhizome opens its first call for Microgrants for projects related to the Info-Wars program thread. For further information on proposal submission guidelines, please visit [rhizome.org](http://rhizome.org).

### **“The Art Happens Here” Tour**

Alongside activities at [rhizome.org](http://rhizome.org) and in New York City, the gallery exhibition “The Art Happens Here: Net Art’s Archival Poetics” will begin a three-venue tour this fall, following its successful run at the New Museum in early 2019. Presenting institutions include the Galleries at Peeler at DePauw University, opening September 13, 2019; the Vicki Myhren Gallery at the University of Denver, opening January 2020; and Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, opening fall 2020. The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation provided major support for the “Net Art Anthology” project.

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## **ABOUT RHIZOME**

Rhizome champions born-digital art and culture through artist-centered programs that commission, present, and preserve art made with and through digital networks and tools. Online since 1996, the organization is an affiliate of the iconic New Museum in New York City. For more information, visit [rhizome.org](http://rhizome.org).

## **ABOUT NEW MUSEUM**

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

## **SUPPORT**

Info-Wars is made possible by support from Seth Stolbun and The Stolbun Collection.

Money as Medium is supported by Chris Dannen and Iterative Capital.

Making Kin preservation research is generously supported by The National Endowment for the Humanities.

“The Art Happens Here: Net Art’s Archival Poetics” and *Net Art Anthology* were made possible by the generous support of the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation.

The Rhizome Commissions Program is supported by Jerome Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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