



Rui Antunes (MIRALab)

From self-portraits to medieval simulations: computational artificial ecosystems as multi-contextual authoring tools

**Rui Antunes** is a Visual Artist, Academic, and Researcher in animation and interactive technologies. Currently, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow (Individual Global Fellowship) at MIRALab, University of Geneva, and BioISI, at Faculdade de Ciências, University of Lisbon. The present research is about the animation of virtual groups and crowds. His main interest is the exploration of the framework of Artificial Life in this type of simulations. The ultimate goal is the use of these methods in Cultural Heritage simulations of the past.

Throughout his career, he has been sponsored by prestigious bodies such as the European Research Agency or the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia. Earlier, he has completed a PhD at Goldsmiths, University of London, crossing the bridges between art, science, and technology. This has been consequence of the parallel practice as visual artist initiated in the early 1990s at Ar.Co, in Lisbon Portugal.

His work has been awarded twice in the VIDA competition of art and artificial intelligence (editions 12th and 13th) and features in a number of publications such as the textbook Preble's Artforms, the scientific ALife journal or the Journal of Virtual Worlds, and diverse catalogues.

A large number of curatorial projects and shows have included his work in the last ten years, including a solo show, in 2013, at the Tin Shed Project in London. In 2009, his work featured in the exhibition Lá For a at Museu da Electricidade, in Lisbon, a perspective of historical and contemporary art by portuguese living abroad.

### **From self-portraits to medieval simulations: computational artificial ecosystems as multi-contextual authoring tools**

We discuss \*computational artificial ecosystems\* as abstract and open animation systems with a vast domain of applications including i) the procedural generation of dynamic and inhabited landscapes, and ii) the dynamism and socializing of characters. We contend that these systems function as utilitarian authoring tools for multi-contextual purposes. This talk emphasizes a transition, from the use of artefacts that mostly rely on their traditionally associated eco-narratives to functional tool generators of diversity and heterogeneity.