SCI-Arc

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Architectural Bestia Addresses Mutation and Machine Learning in New Exhibition
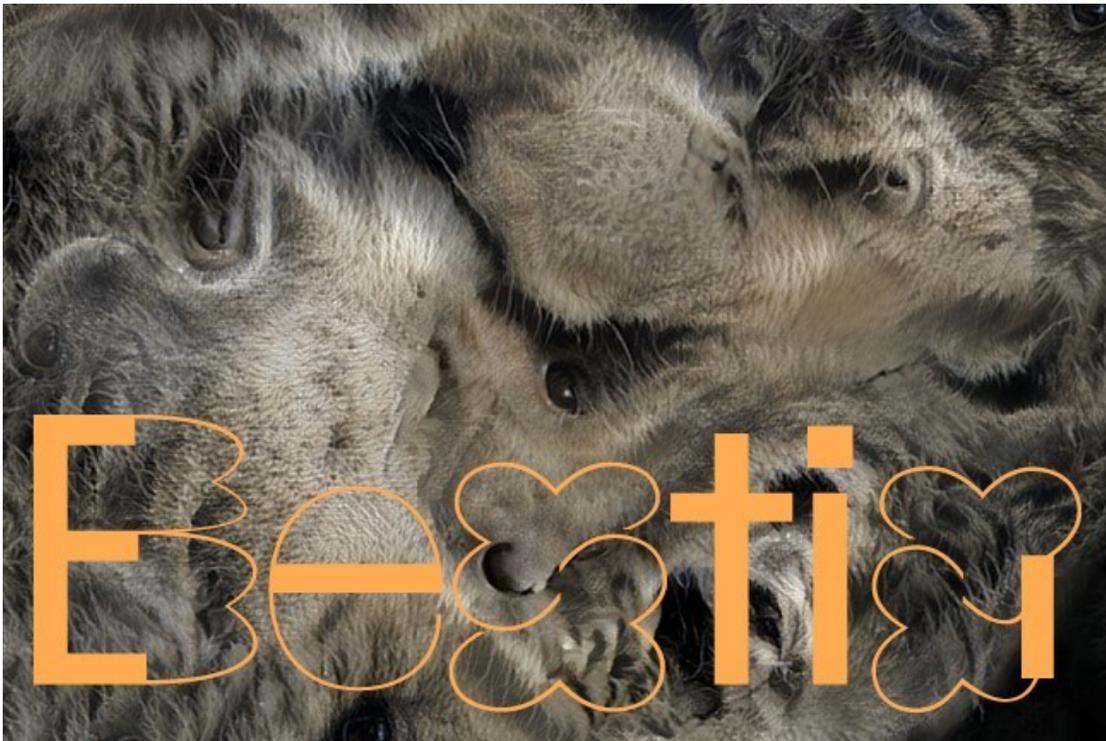
Los Angeles, CA (March 23, 2021) – SCI-Arc is proud to announce a new exhibition, entitled *Architectural Bestia*, which will open virtually on April 2 and run through August 31, 2021, with an accompanying symposium held on April 3 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm.

Curated by SCI-Arc Director Hernán Díaz Alonso and Architectural Technologies Coordinator M. Casey Rehm, *Architectural Bestia* will feature work by BairBalliet, Herwig Baumgartner, Current Interests, Griffin Enright, Aminatou Fall, Ramiro Diaz-Granados, Soomeen Hahm, Kordae Jatafa Henry, Damjan Jovanovic, Ferda Kolatan, Elena Manferdini, P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S,

Florencia Pita & Co, Ruy Klein, servo LA-Stockholm, Testa & Weiser, Tom Wiscombe, William Virgil, and Liam Young, as well as Díaz Alonso and Rehm themselves.

Through artificial intelligence, the work presented in the virtual exhibition will be exposed to a perpetual state of transformation and mutation, gathering a key set of practices, primarily from architecture, but also from art and fashion, "to reveal facets of the strange beast that the tumultuous paradigm shifts of recent decades have left behind." In other words: "The notion of authorship itself is in flux."

"In every process of evolution, there is a period of extreme contamination that lends the possibility for the trajectories of species to begin to mutate," continues the exhibition text for *Bestia*. The exhibition further illustrates that in the last thirty years, design has experienced multiple paradigm shifts generated by an eruption of new methodologies, derived both from new technologies, as well as a series of cultural changes, "each prompting a reorganization in the culture of design, architecture, and art, and violating an old order, rendering it historical, obsolete."

"The *Architectural Bestia* is an autonomous aesthetic explorer," comments Rehm. "Each night the machine scours the internet for the previous day's most popular architectural imagery, incorporating this new content into the existing dataset. Every day the machine then generates a partial map of its learned image space, centering the grid around the previous day's most clicked image. This daily labor generates an evolving archive of works which shift aesthetics from those valued by the academy to those valued through collective engagement on social media."

Architectural Bestia is generously supported by Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

More information on the exhibition as well as live viewing links for the opening and symposium can be found on the [SCI-Arc event page](#).

About SCI-Arc
Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) is dedicated to educating architects who will imagine and shape the future. It is an independent, accredited degree-granting institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture. Located in a quarter-mile-long former freight depot in the Arts District in downtown Los Angeles, the school is distinguished by its vibrant studio culture and emphasis on process. SCI-Arc's approximately 500 students and 80 faculty members, most of whom are practicing architects, work together to reexamine assumptions, create, explore, and test the limits of architecture. SCI-Arc faculty and leadership have garnered more than 500 national and international design awards and recognitions, including Progressive Architecture awards, American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards, and the prestigious Jencks and Pritzker architecture prizes. In *DesignIntelligence*'s 2019 US survey, SCI-Arc ranked #2 in Design Technologies, #3 Most Hired From, and was top ten among the nation's Most Admired Undergraduate Programs in Architecture. SCI-Arc is located at 960 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013. www.sciarc.edu