AI, Artificial Intelligence, Das andere Ich

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- 1 The lavishly illustrated catalogue *AI, Artificial Intelligence, Das andere Ich* edited by Gerfried Stocker, Christine Schöpf and Hannes Leopoldseder, is published in occasion of the 38th edition of Ars Electronica, the Festival for Art, Technology and Society in Linz (September 7-11, 2017). As suggested by the title, this very last edition of the Festival is dedicated to the analysis of Artificial Intelligence, as an 'Other I', «a universal metaphor for humankind's ambivalent relationship with technology» (p. 10). The aim is to analyze merits and defects, expectations and fears of what is called the Cambrian Explosion of Digitization. How are we facing this revolution? What are the implications of the increasing implementation of neural networks and machine learning? What are the consequences on concepts such as work, education and income? How different cultures shape technology? Are we at the beginning or at the end of this developmental process? The Festival has deepened these questions through dedicated conferences, lectures, workshops, events, concerts, performances and the long-established exhibition organized according to two fundamental approaches: 1) art and technology projects motivated by research; 2) art and technology projects as means of artistic expression. The themes explored by art-works range from the analysis of the ethical-philosophical question of essence (of humankind, of machine) to a comprehensive gaze to current forms of artistic expression using machine learning and Artificial Intelligence. Also, artificial intimacy is at the focus of attention: «can a human love a robot? Can a robot love a human?». What comes to light in the editors' opinion is that the digital is proliferating faster and wider than predicted and has big consequences on social, cultural artistic and especially political context. After an optimistic welcome to the revolution, it is now time to face also the negative and undesirable aspects because «what everyone can agree upon is that we are nowhere near the end of the line of this developmental process» (p. 14).