

For Immediate Release

NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION ATELIER 12-16/11/2018 – ROBOTICS

- The Norman Foster Foundation presents, with the support of the Rolex Institute, the second edition of its Robotics Atelier with a public debate in which practitioners working in different fields interrelated with robotics will participate, including Anne Faucheret, Fabio Gramazio, Iñigo Lazkanotegui and Jonathan Ledgard.
- This debate is the public event included in the Robotics Atelier where a distinguished group of specialists will engage at the Norman Foster Foundation in Madrid, Spain, with ten selected students from ten universities around the world sharing a common interest in the subject. This year's atelier mentor is Fabio Gramazio, Co-Founder Gramazio Kohler Research, Zurich, Switzerland.
- These ten students will engage with a group of specialists through a series of seminars and lectures culminating in a five-day Atelier. During the week, the students will also manipulate sand to create a highly informed and geometrically complex formwork element to cast and construct architectural artefact.

Madrid, 15 October 2018

The second edition of the Norman Foster Foundation Robotics Atelier will take place on 12-16 November 2018, with the support of the Rolex Institute and under the mentorship of Fabio Gramazio, Co-Founder Gramazio Kohler Research, ETH Zurich, Switzerland. This year the Atelier will investigate new ways of reflecting on the physics of architecture, its design and materialization.

The Academic Body spans a wide range of practitioners working in different fields interrelated with robotics, including Todd Eckert, Founder of Tin Drum, Pittsburgh, United States of America; Anne Faucheret, Curator at Kunsthalle Wien, Wien, Austria; Ruairi Glynn, Director of the Interactive Architecture Lab at the Bartlett, UCL, London, United Kingdom; Iñigo Lazkanotegi, Project Manager in Instrumentation and Intelligent Maintenance at Tecnalia, Alava, Spain; Jonathan Ledgard, Former Director of Afrotech and founder of Rossums Studio, Lausanne, Switzerland; Antoine Picon, Professor of History of Architecture and Technology at Harvard GSD, Cambridge, United States of America and Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen, Head of the Centre for Information Technology and Architecture (CITA), Copenhagen, Denmark.

'Building with the robot takes architecture far beyond the creation of static forms to the design of formative material processes,' states Atelier mentor Fabio Gramazio. 'We mean to convey that the robot can act as a catalyst to impart cultural significance to digital architecture. Through the robot, the digitalization of architecture becomes physical and tangible. As such, we aim to enter a dialogue between human and machine, designer and maker, to explore the distinct aesthetic significance and identity of digitally fabricated architecture.'

After reviewing applications submitted by hundreds of candidates from around the world, the selection committee awarded ten scholarships to students from the following universities and institutions: Ashesi University, Berekuso, Ghana; Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL), London, United Kingdom; Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland; Technische Universität Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany; Tecnológico de Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico; Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, India; Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IaaC), Barcelona, Spain; University of California in Los Angeles, Los Angeles (UCLA), United States of America; University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany; University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.

These ten students will engage with a group of specialists through a series of seminars and lectures culminating in a five-day Atelier. During the week, the students will also manipulate sand to create a highly informed and geometrically complex formwork element to cast and construct architectural artefact. They will explore the direct relationship between computational design, tooling, feedback systems and robotic motions to steer granular material formations processes, with the help of three highly flexible robot arms.

The Robotics Atelier will include seminars, lectures, one-to-one tutoring and urban architectural tours to learn more about the context of Madrid. During the course of the Atelier, participants will have the opportunity to engage with the Norman Foster Foundation's archive and research projects.

Norman Foster Foundation

Public Debate

Date and time: 16th November 2018 12:30 p.m.- 2.20 p.m.

Venue: Fundación Francisco Giner de los Ríos Paseo del General Martínez Campos 14, 28010, Madrid, Spain

With the participation of Anne Faucheret, Fabio Gramazio, Iñigo Lazkanotegui and Jonathan Ledgard.

Tim Stonor, Managing Director of Space Syntax, London, United Kingdom, and part of the Advisory Board of the Norman Foster Foundation, will chair the debates.

Limited spaces are reserved for press. If you are interested in attending the Public Debate above, please contact us at press@normanfosterfoundation.org

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations of architects, designers and urbanists to anticipate the future.

We believe in the importance of connecting architecture, design, technology and the arts to better serve society and in the value of a holistic education that encourages experimentation through research and projects.

The Norman Foster Foundation holds the Norman Foster Archive and Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster.

The Norman Foster Foundation is based in Madrid and operates globally.

Visit www.normanfosterfoundation.org for more information and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Vimeo.

Rolex Institute

The Rolex Institute embodies Rolex's philosophy of supporting visionary men and women who make a meaningful contribution to society.

The Rolex Institute comprises the educational initiatives and philanthropic programmes of Rolex SA. These include the Rolex Awards for Enterprise that recognize individuals for ground-breaking initiatives in applied science and technology, exploration and the environment; and the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative that brings together promising young talents with world-renowned masters in architecture, dance, film, literature, music, theatre and visual arts for a period of one-to-one collaboration.

Rolex has a long-held interest in great architecture, which has many synergies with fine watchmaking. Both architects and watchmakers blend aesthetics and functionality; in both areas there is an obsessive quest for a fusion of form and function and a shared culture of design excellence and technical innovation at the highest level.

A passion for architecture has led Rolex to commission the finest buildings for its worldwide operations. Rolex is also the Exclusive Partner and Timepiece of the International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. Great architects who have mentored the next generation of architects through the Rolex Arts Initiative are Álvaro Siza, Kazuyo Sejima, Peter Zumthor, Sir David Chipperfield and Sir David Adjaye.

Lord Foster served on the Advisory Board of the Rolex Arts Initiative in 2015.

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