

The Merge, Scenes From a Simulated Reality

By Sara, Peter & Tobias

BredaPhoto international photo festival
5 September – 21 October 2018
Breda, The Netherlands

This project by three talented Danish photographers is a futuristic worst-case scenario about the merging of man and machine. It's a call for a fundamental debate on the future of technology. The project will be on display at BredaPhoto, from 5 September to 21 October 2018.

Is it possible that we're living in a computer simulation and that our reality is an illusion? Could it be that breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, virtual reality and robotics have allowed us to construct a new reality, of which we're yet unaware? Can we still trust our senses in judging what's real and what's not?

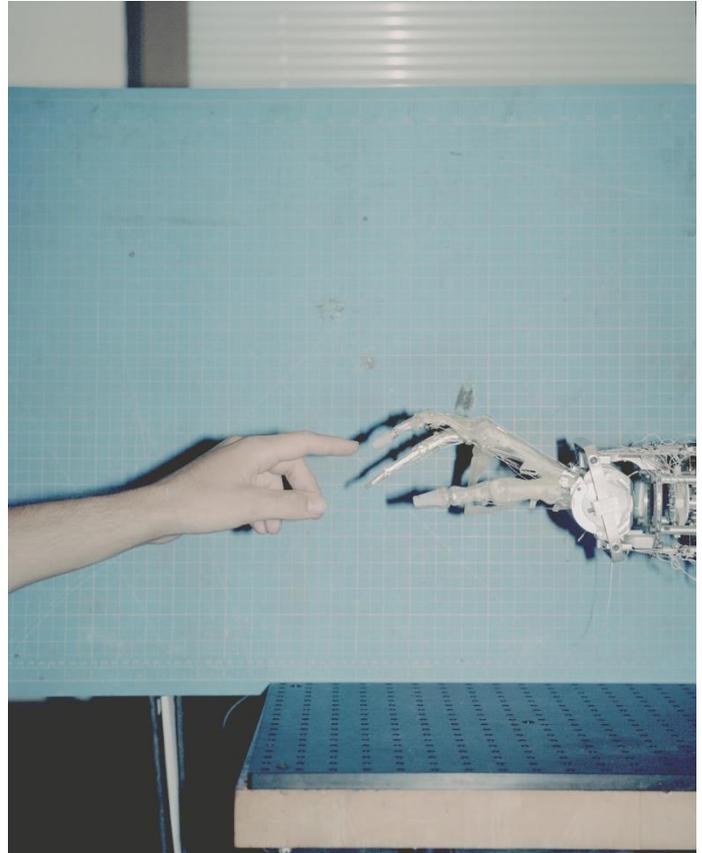
These are some of the questions that Danish photographers Sara Brincher Galbiati (1981), Peter Helles Eriksen (1984) and Tobias Selnaes Markussen (1982) – winners of the 2018 BJP International Photography Award – explore in their ongoing project *The Merge*. Exclusively for BredaPhoto, they added a new chapter called *Scenes From a Simulated Reality*, which was co-financed by the Dutch non-profit production house Forhanna.

The artists drew inspiration from philosopher Nick Bostrom, who explored whether it's possible we're unknowingly living in a virtual world. The film *The Matrix* (1999) popularised a similar idea: “You take the blue pill—the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill—you stay in Wonderland, and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes.”

The photographers visited research institutes in America, Europe and Asia that have produced big technological breakthroughs. The photographers give us a glimpse of the world of tomorrow. *The Merge, Scenes From a Simulated Reality* is a visual interpretation of the impact of technological progress on us and the society we live in. It challenges the viewer to look into a future where man and machine merge.

About the artists

Peter Helles Eriksen (1984), Sara Brincher Galbiati (1981) and Tobias Selnaes Markussen (1982) are a photographers collective based in Copenhagen, Denmark. They studied together at the Danish School of Art Photography and the Danish School of Media and Journalism. In 2015, they started working as a collective. They had their first joint international exhibition at Rencontres d'Arles 2016, where they released the book *Phenomena* (published by André Frère Éditions). They are represented by East Wing Gallery (Dubai). In 2018, they received the [BJP International Photography Award](#).



The project *Scenes From a Simulated Reality* is a new chapter to their ongoing project *The Merge*, an exploration of the question whether we might be living in a computer simulation. The chapter was exclusively made for BredaPhoto.

About BredaPhoto

BredaPhoto is an international photography biennial taking place from 5 September until 21 October in various locations in Breda, The Netherlands. *The Merge*, *Scenes From a Simulated Reality* will be on display at Breda Botanique (Parade 10). Opening hours: Tuesday till Sunday, from 10 AM till 5 PM. For more information visit [the BredaPhoto website](#).

About Forhanna

This exhibition was co-financed by [Forhanna](#), a non-profit production house from The Netherlands. Forhanna supports in-depth documentary projects that show a deep social awareness and an urge to encourage public debate. Forhanna was founded by documentary photographer Willem Poelstra. Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Press images for the exhibition *The Merge*, *Scenes From a Simulated Reality* at BredaPhoto 2018

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1llpa-lkBw0j_ozPBxZ-dBRka8lvq5y3

This folder contains the following images:

01. 3D model to support machine learning and computer vision algorithms, Germany
02. Capturing the self. Ko kut, Thailand
03. Terminator Judgement Day. Los Angeles, USA
04. "Maybe you are programmed to think the sunset is beautiful"
- Nobel laureate prof. George Smoot, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Legal terms of use:

These images may only be used in publications regarding Bredaphoto 2018.

All images used must be credited: Sara, Peter & Tobias, 2016 - 2018.

It's not allowed to crop, edit or alter these images in any other way.

In case any text or graphics are added to the images, the artists must first approve the final layout.

Press contact

Artists	Sara, Peter & Tobias mail@sarapetertobias.com
Forhanna	Lotti Pronk / +31 (0) 6 413 71 519 lottipronk@gmail.com
BredaPhoto	Marianne Robben marianne@bredaphoto.nl / +31 (0) 6 348 19 347