

GLITCHING OPTIMIZATION IN A FEW STEPS : A PERFORMANCE-LECTURE ABOUT ROBOTIC FAILURES

- CONCEPT + TEXT + PERFORMANCE _ JULIE-MICHÈLE MORIN
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- DRAMATURGICAL SUPPORT _ LEA LUKA SIKAU + BART KUIPERS

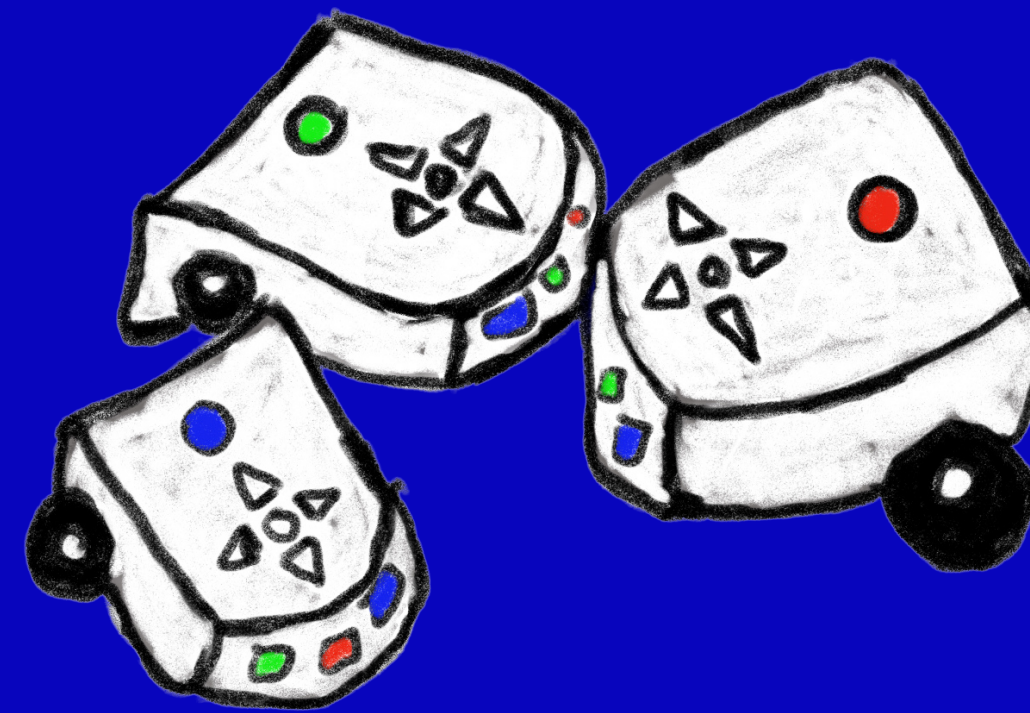
● PERFORMERS



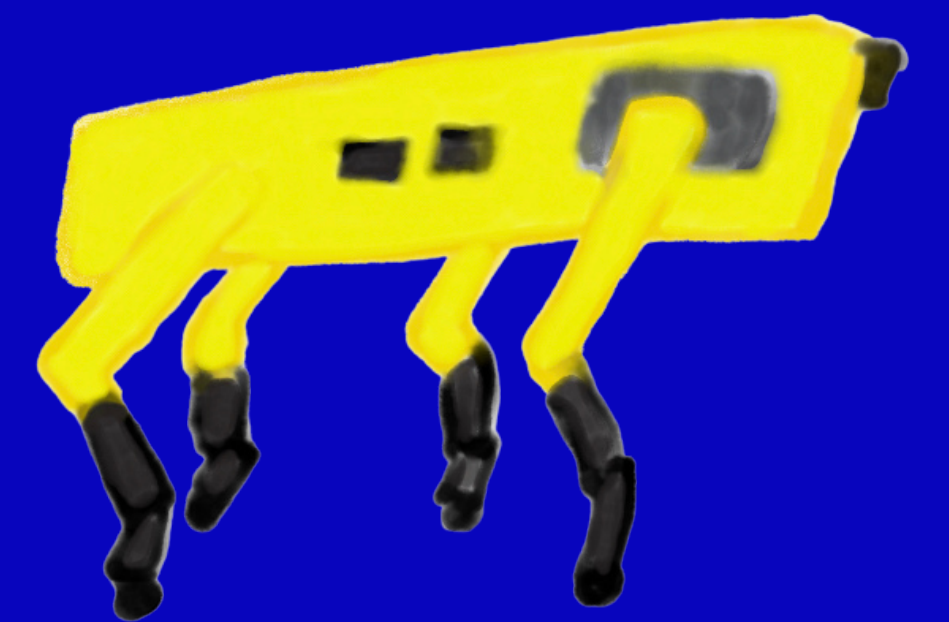
ROBOROCK S8



IGUS REBEL COBOT



THYMIO (3X)



SPOT

QUEER ROBOTS HACKING TECHNO-CAPITALISM THROUGH FAILURES AND GLITCHES.



THIS PERFORMANCE PROJECT DELVES INTO THE REALM OF ROBOTICS, FEATURING A DIVERSE ARRAY OF ROBOTS ATTEMPTING AND FAILING AT ASSIGNED TASKS. THE PROJECT ADOPTS THE FORMAT OF A LECTURE-PERFORMANCE WHERE JULIE-MICHÈLE MORIN'S BLENDS THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS ON ROBOTIC OPTIMIZATION WHILE SHARING INTIMATE STORIES ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAILURES ENCOUNTERED IN HER OWN QUEER AND ACADEMIC LIFE.

THE PERFORMANCE UNFOLDS IN THREE DISTINCT CHAPTERS: "DEALING WITH YOUR OWN MESS," "TRYING TO GRASP THE WORLD AS IT IS," AND "LOOKING FOR BALANCE: BECOMING SLIPPERY." SUCH A PROJECT AIMS TO ESCAPE TECHNO-CAPITALIST ASSIGNATIONS, AND TEMPORARILY ESCAPE THE PRODUCTIVE DESTINY RESERVED FOR BOTH ROBOTS AND HUMANS.

DURING HER PERFORMATIVE EXPERIMENTATIONS WITH THE ROBOTS, SHE DESIGNED DIFFERENT DRAMATURGICAL TASKS FOR THEM TO FAIL SOFTLY: ROBOROCK S8 (A ROBOTIC VACUUM) TRIED TO CLEAN A MESS INSIDE OF A USELESS MAZE, IGUS REBEL COBOT (A ROBOTIC ARM) ATTEMPTED TO DRAW WITH A 3D PEN AND COMPETE IN ROCK, PAPER SCISSORS GAME, THE 3 THYMIO (RANDOM ROBOTS DESIGNED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES) DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO STAY ON A TABLE AND SPOT (A ROBOTIC DOG) GAVE HIS 100% WHILE NAVIGATING SLIPPERY SURFACES.

DRAWING ON QUEER THEORIES AND THE WAY THEY ENVISIONED FAILURE AS A FORM OF ACTIVISM AGAINST THE HEGEMONIES (HALBERSTAM, 2011), THE GOAL OF THE PERFORMANCE IS TO MODEL A VISION OF ROBOTICS THAT REVOLVES AROUND THE JOY OF FAILURE RATHER THAN THE NEOLIBERAL NORMS OF OPTIMIZATION AND PRODUCTIVITY.



BY STAGING ROBOTS THAT SCREW UP THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO THEM, I WANT TO CHALLENGE THE TRADITIONAL CONCEPTION OF PERFORMANCE (AS AN OPTIMIZATION PRACTICE AND AS A PERFORMATIVE GESTURE). BY FAILING, ROBOTS POSITION MARGINAL VISIONS OF THE HUMAN AT THE CENTER OF THE REPRESENTATION AND, IN SO DOING, PROTEST THE OBJECTIVES OF TECHNO-CAPITALISM: TO PRODUCE MORE, TO PRODUCE AGAIN, AND TO PRODUCE FASTER.

