

AI INCUBATOR / 2026

HORIZONS

An AI Incubator for
Rooted Futures in
Ecomedia Art

Create with AI.
Stay connected to
the living world.

OPEN CALL

DEADLINE: 10 NOVEMBER 2026

Online submissions • Free to submit
3–5-minute audiovisual works
Selection by curatorial review
horizonsartlab@gmail.com

HORIZONS

An AI Incubator for Rooted Futures in Ecomedia Art

Online | Free participation

How can we program, imagine, and co-create with artificial intelligence without losing our connection to the earth we inhabit?

Join the HORIZONS AI Incubator to create short audiovisual works for consideration in the closing programme of Victoria Lu's retrospective and academic research exhibition at Ca' Foscari Esposizioni, Venice.

Selected works will be presented within HORIZONS, co-curated by Victoria Lu and Carolina Fernández-Castrillo, from 18–22 November 2026, with an accompanying academic symposium on 19 November.

In an era marked by resource extractivism, algorithmic opacity, and climate obstructionism, this AI incubator proposes an urgent pause: a space to challenge the material, energy, and social footprint of current generative models.

We invite producers, activists, creators, technologists, and researchers to reimagine AI not as an industrial end, but as an ecomedia practice: a tool to listen to the planet, expose the climate crisis, and cultivate symbiotic alliances between code, ecology, and human imagination.

Through intergenerational co-creation, participants will reflect on how to leverage cutting-edge ecomedia formats to cultivate critical AI literacy and dismantle climate paralysis.

How and why you use AI are part of the work.

Key Tracks

The call is also open to other proposals that go beyond what is outlined below.

1. Materiality of Code: Digital Extractivism vs. Low-Carbon Intelligence

Confronting computing's physical footprint while harnessing energy-aware technology.

- *The Weight of a Prompt*: Visualizing the invisible thermal breath of servers, casting digital light as a physical resource borrowed from rivers and rocks.
- *Code in Slow Motion*: Audiovisual rhythms that slow down to match the pace of nature, transforming computational speed into a contemplative, low-impact pulse and JOMO vibrations.
- *Minerals and Memory*: Imagery where raw geological strata and circuit boards bleed into one another, reflecting on the earth sacrificed to power our digital dreams.

2. More-than-Human Symbiosis: Algorithmic Monoculture vs. Bio-Sensing Translation

Examining AI's potential to either isolate humanity or connect us to planetary ecosystems.

- *Subterranean Whispers*: Audiovisual tapestries weaving fungal signals, sap flow, and root pulses into fluid, non-human landscapes.
- *The Lagoon's Memory*: Generative imagery and acoustics dictated by the rising tides, salinity, and aquatic currents of fragile ecosystems.
- *Interspecies Lullabies*: Soundscapes where bird migrations, marine echolocation, and synthetic frequencies blend into a shared, multispecies lullaby.

3. Intergenerational Eco-Literacy: Cultural Erasure vs. Ancestral Memory Archives

Navigating the tension between digital homogenization and collective heritage.

- *Ecofeminist & Indigenous Lineages*: Generative tapestries celebrating community care, and ancestral rites passed down through generations of women and indigenous land protectors.
- *The Family Album of the Earth*: Blending community archives, traditional songs, and neural imagery to map sacred territories and landscapes that have mutated or vanished over time.
- *Conversations Across Time*: Speculative dialogues between youth and elders, using machine intelligence to visualize lost botanical intimacy, communal memory, and non-extractive rituals.

4. Regenerative Imaginaries: Climate Paralysis vs. Predictive Action

Addressing ecoanxiety by contrasting techno-dystopias with proactive ecological modeling.

- *The Century of Rewilding*: Time-lapse visions of concrete landscapes surrendering to moss, forests, and wild waters over the next hundred years.
- *From Grief to Bloom*: Audiovisual trajectories that shift from melancholic, industrial noise into vibrant, harmonized natural symphonies.
- *Letters from a Healed Future*: Speculative reporting back from a time where human technology and ecological balance have made peace.

5. Critical AI Literacy: Greenwashing vs. Tactical Environmental Justice

Deconstructing corporate techno-solutionism through critical practice and ethical governance.

- *Voices of the River*: Speculative digital trials where forests, rivers, and endangered species gain algorithmic avatars to assert their legal and poetic rights.
- *Deconstructing the Mirage*: Poetic remixing of corporate greenwashing campaigns, peeling back slick digital veneers to reveal the raw landscapes beneath.
- *Counter-Maps of Light*: Generative maps that illuminate hidden environmental impacts, turning raw ecological data into haunting visual poetry.

From the AI Incubator to Venice

The AI incubator is being developed with Prof. Dr. Carolina Fernández-Castrillo of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M), in dialogue with artist and curator Victoria Lu and their teams.

It responds to *Metamorphosis: Beyond the Real. Searching for Victoria Lu*, which explores memory, authorship, and human–AI co-creation through Lu's artistic and curatorial trajectory. Its four structures, Generation, Translation, Recomposition and Co-Writing, offer a starting point for moving between source material, AI experimentation, critical revision, and shared creation.

The challenge draws also inspiration from the book *Horizontes de la inteligencia artificial para la acción climática: Perspectivas, desafíos y soluciones* (Fragua) and the research project *Digital Innovation to Address Intergenerational Ecoanxiety* (UC3M), both led by Fernández-Castrillo.

Works will be considered for the exhibition *HORIZONS: Beyond the Real – Wild Roots, Symbiotic Imaginaries*, opening in Venice on 18 November 2026. Selection depends on artistic quality, relevance, technical suitability, and rights clearance; participation does not guarantee exhibition.

An accompanying academic symposium is planned for 19th November at Ca' Foscari University in collaboration with the Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities (VeDPH), free entrance.

Who Should Apply

We welcome hybrid, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational profiles:

- Audiovisual creators, activists, students, and producers
- Ecomedia, visual, and media artists
- AI/ML developers, creative coders, and technologists
- Ecologists, environmental humanists, and scientists
- Interaction designers, sound artists, and digital storytellers

Technical Guidelines & Submission Requirements

Whether you are an experienced creator or a student making your first AI video, please read these guidelines carefully before submitting.

1. Video Quality & Size

Five horizontal LED screens are available, each with a display area of 288 × 160 cm. Prepare your screening file using the confirmed specifications below.

- **Length:** 3–5 minutes.
- **Screen Shape (Aspect Ratio):** 16:9 for the five horizontal screens.
- **Resolution:** 1920 × 1080 pixels (Full HD). A 4K file is not required for these screens.
- **Format to Export:** MP4 with H.264 encoding.
- **Frame Rate and Bitrate:** 30 fps; approximately 8–12 Mbps.
- **Optional L-shaped Screen:** 4320 × 800 pixels, MP4 with H.264 encoding, 30 fps and approximately 8–12 Mbps. The upright and curved sections account for 35% of the layout; the flat horizontal section accounts for 65%. Contact the team before preparing a work for this format.

2. Sound & Audio Setup

Please state whether your work includes sound and whether this sound is essential to understanding it.

- Audio playback arrangements and any separate audio-file requirements will be confirmed with the exhibition team.
- Include any audio requirements in your screening notes and avoid distortion or clipping in the submitted audio.

3. Copyright & Fair Use Rules

Selected works will be screened at Ca' Foscari Esposizioni during the closing programme of Victoria Lu's exhibition. Please ensure you have the rights and permissions needed for the agreed uses.

- **No Copying Artists' Styles:** Do not use prompts like *"in the style of [living artist's name]"* or generate famous trademarked characters (e.g., Disney characters, brand logos).
- **Music & Sound Effects:** Use sounds you created yourself, AI-generated music, or royalty-free audio (like Creative Commons or Public Domain sounds). Do not use copyrighted commercial pop music.
- **Real People & Faces:** Do not use AI voice clones or deepfake faces of real living or deceased people without written permission.
- **Archival Footage:** If you use real historical photos or old video clips, make sure they are in the Public Domain or licensed under Creative Commons.

4. What You Need to Submit

When you submit your project online, please include the following:

1. **Master Video File:** Your 3-to-5-minute video prepared to the confirmed screen specifications above.
2. **Project Information and Screening Notes (1–2-page PDF):** Include the following information in one PDF:
 - **Tools Used:** Which AI models or software you used (e.g., Runway, Sora, Midjourney, ComfyUI, ElevenLabs, etc.).
 - **Copyright Confirmation:** A simple statement confirming that your music, imagery, and text are free of copyright infringement.
 - **Eco-Reflection:** A brief sentence or paragraph on how you tried to minimize energy usage while rendering (e.g., using low-carbon settings, smaller models, or local computing).

Screening Notes (include in the same PDF): Any simple instructions for how you want your video displayed (e.g., "This video should loop continuously" or "Best played in a darkened room").

Signed Exhibition Consent Form (PDF): [Download the blank Word form](#), complete the artist and artwork details, select your permissions and licence period, and sign and date the artist section. Leave the organiser and curator signature fields blank. Return the signed form as a PDF with your submission.

Rights and responsible participation

Participation is free. No fees will be paid to artists for participation or screening; any other cost arrangements must be agreed separately. You retain all rights you hold in your contribution. Submission does not transfer ownership or guarantee selection. Any exhibition or further use is governed by the signed exhibition consent form.

Identify your collaborators and source materials, including music, images, footage, and identifiable people. Explain the permissions, licenses, or other lawful basis for their use. Disclose the AI tools used, what they generated or changed, and your own creative contribution. Realistic AI-generated or manipulated depictions must be identified; where EU AI Act disclosure rules apply, clear, accessible disclosure will accompany the work from first exposure, without hampering its display or enjoyment.

Applicants must submit a completed and signed exhibition consent form granting Future Pass Creative Co., Ltd. a non-exclusive licence to screen the identified work at Ca' Foscari Esposizioni from 18–22 November 2026. The form provides Yes/No choices for additional uses, including websites, printed materials, partner publicity and screenings, educational and PR documentaries, full online publication, future exhibitions, and academic publications and research. These choices apply for the licence period selected in the form. The form also includes provisions for press photography and filming, and venue documentation for exhibition publicity.

Open licensing is optional. Copyright is not assigned to the organizers, and no Creative Commons or copyleft license is applied automatically. Submission does not authorize the organizers to use the work for AI training.

Participation and applications

Participation: free.

Working language: English and Spanish

Application deadline: 10 November, 2026.

How to submit: Email a download link to your video, together with your Project Information and Screening Notes (1–2-page PDF) and signed Exhibition Consent Form (PDF), to horizonsartlab@gmail.com by 10 November 2026.

Selection is subject to curatorial review.

Contact: horizonsartlab@gmail.com



Stay connected with HORIZONS

Join our WhatsApp group for event updates, questions, and connecting with other participants.