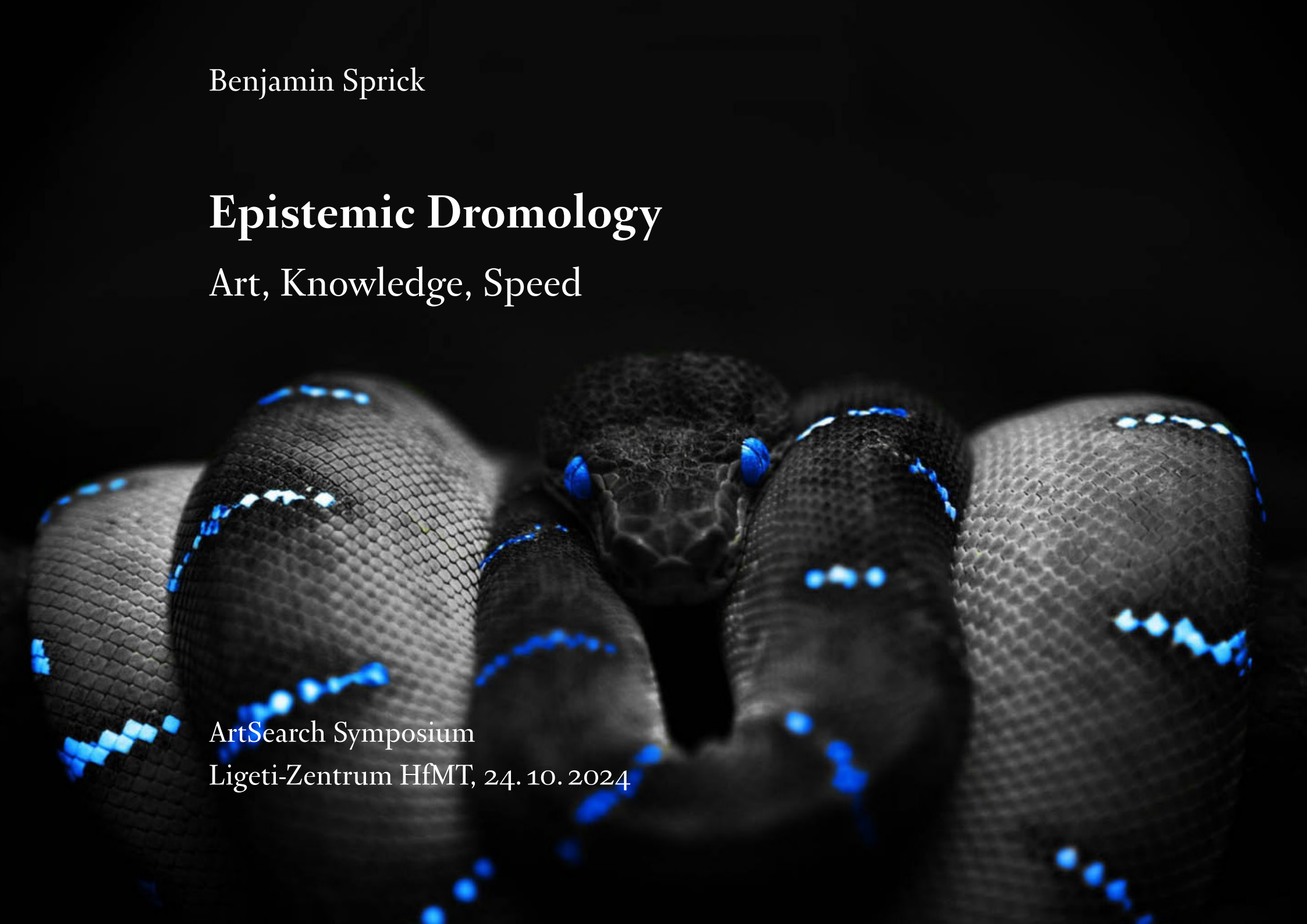


Benjamin Sprick

Epistemic Dromology

Art, Knowledge, Speed

ArtSearch Symposium
Ligeti-Zentrum HfMT, 24. 10. 2024



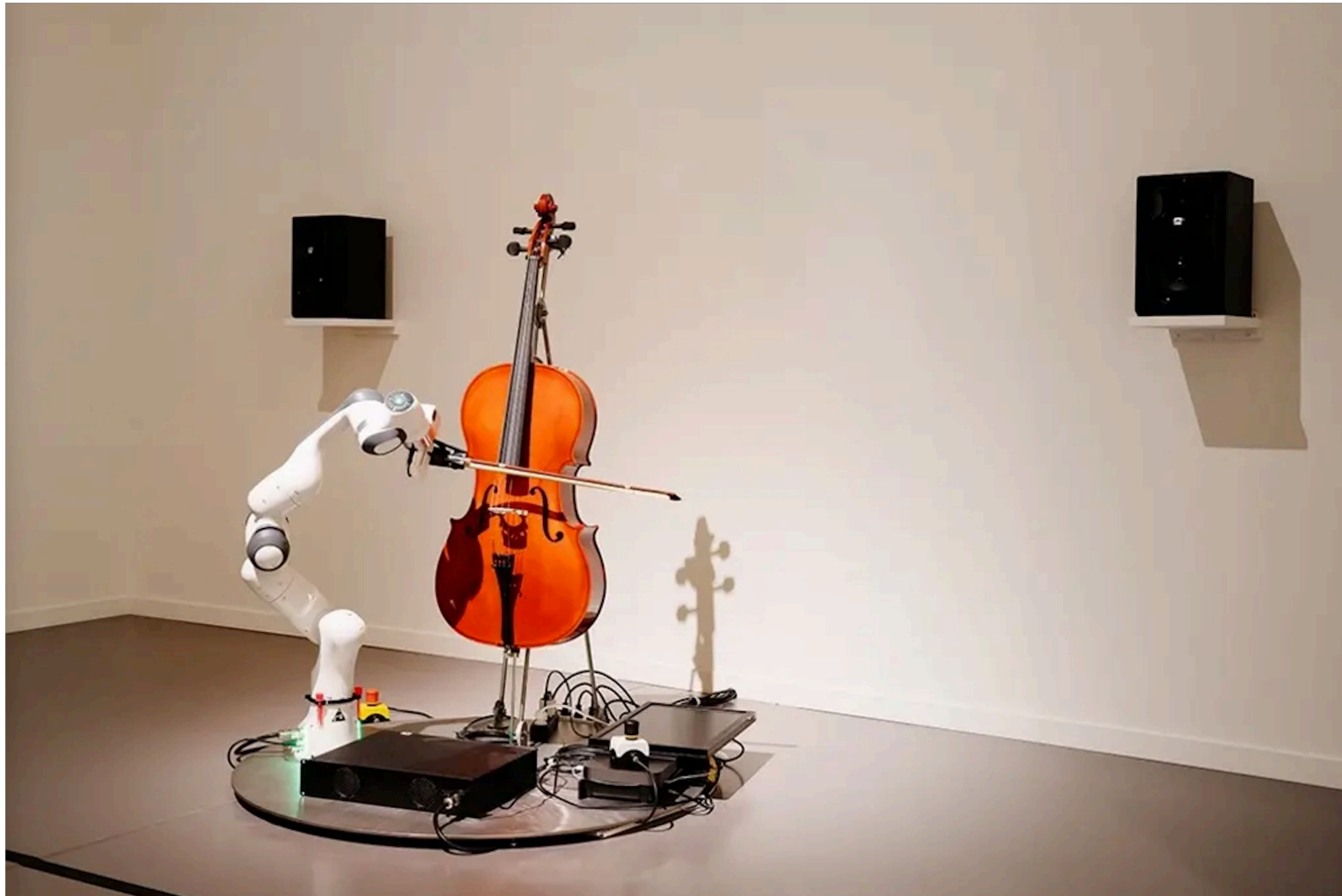
Benjamin Sprick / David Wallraf

Glissando II

›Image-sonore‹ for Cello and Digital Distortion
(Ring-Modulator, Granular-Synthesis, Time-
Stretch)

The three-minute track mixes analogue and digital Cello sounds with different kinds of electroacoustic devices focussing on the instrumental technique of glissando and (a loss of) sonic control.

Cello-AI



Dromological Paradox in Hinterzarten



»Racing Standstill«



- 👉 Epistemic Dromology asks how the relationship between (artistic) knowledge, acceleration and AI can be grasped.



Francis Bacon
*Figure standing
at a washbasin
(1976)*



Paul Virilio (1932-2018)

Dromology (from the ancient Greek *dromos* [racecourse] and *logos* [science], »the logic of the racecourse«) is how Paul Virilio describes it 1977 »a transhistorical and transpolitical research and perspective for examining social conditions that focuses on aspects of speed and acceleration.« It refers to the significance of historical stages and social developments as forms of expression of constantly changing speed conditions, which are closely linked to media history and technical progress.

The discourse around AI is always a »Dromoscours«, that is, to put it into virilios words, a discourse around speed and acceleration. It is about describing an increasing technological compression of real temporality that can handle the given sequence of algorithmic operations faster and faster and thus more efficiently.

The ›Dromotechnology‹ AI extends latent-creative processes such as *machine learning* and *large language models*, which, in terms of time theory, lead the way of decoding given data arsenals into an epistemic zone of indistinguishability. The selection of relevant coding from a given pool of possibilities takes place too quickly to be reconstructed linearly.

- 👉 AI can manage information, but it cannot generate independent knowledge, which in epistemological terms gives it only the status of an increasingly accelerating auxiliary science. In this context, one must make a strict and radical distinction between the concept of ›information‹ and that of ›knowledge‹.

👉 AI is decidedly problem-solving in orientation and organization. It lacks the core competence of differentiating problematization, which is indispensable for successful science.

👉 AI will never be able to take something like a political position, a fundamental flaw from an artistic perspective, which it can even reflect on itself.

- 👉 Epistemological dromology as an artistic research would thus be an investigation of the velocities at which artistic knowledge moves in the power-shaped contexts of algorithmic capitalism.

Thank you for your attention.

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