

Afterwork: On Political Imagination and the Relation Between Human Labour and Automation through the Exploration of Post-Work Scenarios by Ana de Almeida

Chapter 07

About Ana de Almeida

Ana de Almeida is an artist and author from Lisbon, currently living and working in Vienna. In her practice, de Almeida deals with individual and collective memory and with processes of remembering from a socio-political perspective. She works with political imagination as much as with the privatization of history.

Recent shows and projects have been with [transit.sk](#) (2025 SK), Camera Austria (2024 AT), Belvedere 21 (2023), Kunsthalle Wien (2023), House of Arts Ústí nad Labem (2021) and Tabakalera International Centre for Contemporary Culture in Donostia/San Sebastián (2020) to name a few.

Afterwork represents a deepening and formalisation of her long-standing artistic engagement with the intersections of fiction, labour, and systemic control. It builds directly on her use of speculative narrative, performance, and participatory formats as tools to interrogate the ideological structures underpinning labour and automation.

Afterwork also extends themes from Ana de Almeida's earlier contribution to "*Cybernetics of the Poor*" (Kunsthalle Wien, 2020–2021), where cybernetics served as both a historical and analytical lens to question feedback loops of labour, value, and affect in digital and participatory systems. In this context, Ana de Almeida participated in the international seminar "[Ariketak: La segunda respiración. Popular Plays, Unpopular Urgencies](#)" at Tabakalera, Donostía–San Sebastián, co-organised the symposium "[Sharing and Responding](#)" at Kunsthalle Wien and a [same-titled workshop at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna](#). Additionally, she co-taught the seminar "*Cybernetics of the Poor*" with Univ.-Prof. Diedrich Diederichsen for the MA in Critical Studies of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. One outcome of this seminar was the podcast series "[Cybersounds](#)".

Importantly, *Afterwork* is conceptually and methodologically aligned with "[NOVA: Future thoughts on surviving together](#)", an ongoing feminist speculative LARP and collaborative project by Ana de Almeida, Alicja Rogalska and Vanja Smiljanić. NOVA enables the co-creation of feminist political fiction through a speculative game in which participants share survival strategies, practice solidarity and intersectionality, and build new alliances between emancipatory movements. Apart from Kunsthalle Wien, NOVA has had iterations at the [VBKÖ](#) (Vienna), [Temporary Gallery](#) (Cologne), [Gropius Bau/Berliner Festspiele](#) (Berlin), and will soon appear in "[The Desire of Being Many](#)" at alpha nova & galerie futura also in Berlin.