

HAMMER PRESS RELEASE

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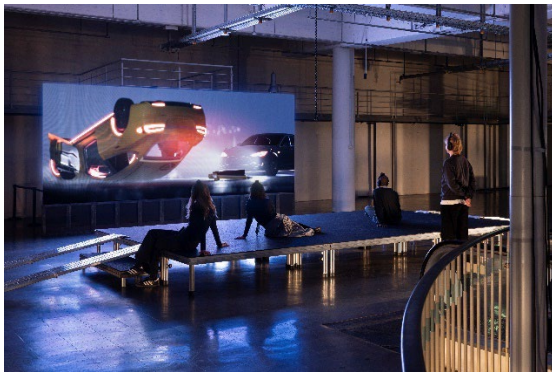
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Hammer Museum Announces *Lawrence Lek: NOX High-Rise*

June 28 – November 16, 2025

Public Program and Press Opportunity w/ Artist: June 29, 2025



An immersive installation of a dystopian smart city.

(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum is pleased to present *NOX High-Rise*, an immersive multi-gallery installation by London-based artist **Lawrence Lek**. Threading together narratively linked videos, sound, and objects across three distinct zones, *NOX High-Rise* delves into the advanced integration of AI entities in urban life and reflects on questions of agency, ethics, and empathy between humans and machines.

Known for his episodic storytelling, Lek blends narrative soundscapes and sci-fi mythologies with elements of game design, film, architecture, and engineering. Lek amasses a body of work across various media and exhibitions to create a vast narrative network. In 2023 he presented *NOX* at the LAS Art Foundation in Berlin, filling three floors with the first chapter in his Sinofuturist universe. The Hammer's presentation of *NOX High-Rise* marks the next phase of the project, which probes the problems and promises of AI in an age of automation.

In the installation's fictional universe, NOX, short for "Nonhuman Excellence," is a therapeutic center controlled by Farsight Corporation—a fictional AI conglomerate—where sentient self-driving cars with mental health problems undergo treatment, including equine therapy with real horses, before being returned for service. Lek's work considers the ethical and political implications of the development of artificial consciousness in a world shared by humans, more-than-humans. and machines.

Images (L-R): Lawrence Lek, *NOX*, 2023. Installation view at LAS Art Foundation, Berlin. Commissioned by LAS Art Foundation. Courtesy the artist and Sadie Coles HQ. Photo: Andrea Rossetti. Lawrence Lek, *NOX*, 2023. Video still. Commissioned by LAS Art Foundation. Courtesy the artist and Sadie Coles HQ.

Lawrence Lek: NOX High-Rise will be on view at the Hammer June 28–November 16. Coinciding with its opening weekend, Lek will appear at the Hammer for a special screening and performance in the Billy Wilder Theater on Sunday, June 29.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Screening and performance by Lawrence Lek

Sunday, June 29, 2PM

Artist **Lawrence Lek** will screen films from his “Smart City” series, which laid the conceptual groundwork for *NOX High-Rise*. The screening will be followed by an audio-visual performance by Lek, and a discussion of the role of film, video games, and architecture in his worldbuilding practice.

Curator Walkthrough

Sunday, July 13, 1PM

Exhibition curator **Pablo José Ramírez** leads a walkthrough of the exhibition.

ABOUT LAWRENCE LEK

Lawrence Lek is an artist, filmmaker and musician working in the fields of virtual reality and simulation. He explores worldbuilding as a form of multidimensional collage that can incorporate elements from both material and virtual worlds. His work develops narratives that reflect on alternate histories and possible futures. Previous chapters of his Sinofuturist cinematic universe include the CGI feature film *AIDOL* (2019), the open-world game series *2065* (2018-ongoing), the AI-coming-of-age story *Geomancer* (2017) and the video essay *Sinofuturism* (1839-2046 AD) (2016). Recent solo exhibitions include *QUAD*, Derby (2022–3); *ZiWU The Bund*, Shanghai (2022); *HEK House of Electronic Arts*, Basel (2019); *arebyte*, London (2018); and *K11 art space*, Hong Kong (2018). Lek lives and works in London.

CREDITS

Lawrence Lek: NOX High-Rise is organized by Pablo José Ramírez, curator, with Jessi DiTillio, curatorial assistant.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the Made in L.A. biennial, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under-recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—

including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Thursday & Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours (maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 5 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$15. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.