

## *Art and Robotics - Creation and Interaction*

*Mari Velonaki*

### Abstract

---

Mari Velonaki will discuss robot creation and human-robot interaction from the perspective of Social Robotics. The thread of collaboration between media artists and roboticists will be used to highlight the importance of developing a shared understanding and shared goals in multi-disciplinary research. Her talk will emphasise the need for diverse collaboration in advancing the emerging field of Social Robotics. When artists and roboticists work together from a research base that allows for experimentation, rather than being solely market-driven, they will commonly expand each other's research boundaries leading to the creation of new knowledge. Mari will argue that this new knowledge—amalgamated from different disciplines—is robust and equally situated between the disciplines.

### About the Speaker

---

*Mari Velonaki* is a researcher and media artist who has worked in the field of interactive installation art since 1995. Her practice engages the spectator/participant with digital and robotic “characters” in interplays stimulated by sensory triggered interfaces. Her innovative human-machine interfaces promote intimate and immersive relationships between participants and interactive artworks.

Mari was awarded a PhD in Media Arts at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales in 2003. Since 2003, Mari has been working as a senior researcher at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics. In 2006 she co-founded with David Rye the Centre for Social Robotics within the Australian Centre for Field Robotics at the University of Sydney. In 2007 Mari was awarded an Australia Council for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship in recognition of her body of work. In 2009 she was awarded a prestigious Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (2009-2013) for the creation of a new robot. This research that

# Robots & Art

**Frontiers in Human-Centred Robotics as Seen by the Arts**  
2011 ICRA Workshop on Robots and Art, Shanghai, China, May 13, 2011

investigates human-robot interactions in order to develop an understanding of the physicality that is possible between a human and a robot.

Velonaki's installations have been exhibited widely, including: Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea; ZENDAI Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai; Wood Street Galleries, Pittsburgh; Millennium Museum - Beijing Biennale of Electronic Arts; Ars Electronica, Linz; Biennale of Electronic Arts, Perth; Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art; Conde Duque Museum, Madrid; European Media Arts Festival, Osnabrück; Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand; Arco, Madrid; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Queensland Art Gallery/GOMA; Art Gallery of New South Wales; Ton-Build-Spektakel, Zurich; Aros Aarhus Museum of Modern Art, Denmark.

Web: <http://mvstudio.org/>

Centre for Social Robotics: [www.csr.acfr.usyd.edu.au](http://www.csr.acfr.usyd.edu.au)