PROPOSITIONS
Algorithmic Anxiety in Contemporary Art –
A Kierkegaardian Inquiry Into the Imaginary of Possibility
by Patricia de Vries

1. 'The algorithm' is more than the sum of its parts – the discourse around algorithms seems to be in excess of its technological possibilities

2. Algorithms should be studied in their form, and not just their function; how the algorithm is *imagined*, represented, and narrativised by artists, which can also be understood as an effect of algorithms in and of itself

3. Our affective lives extend into our external environment

4. It is the inability to fully comprehend or know the future, which conditions anxiety

5. The algorithm appears as a dynamic relation in the synthesis between the virtual and the actual, the social and the material, form and function

6. It is often not the technology itself that is feared, but a new value system, based on the imagined qualitative change in humanity's basic relationships, and crucially the possible threat of white supremacy

7. Technological fantasies are often watered-down versions of the alchemical story of the Homunculus; men's desire to create forms of life that have the same properties as themselves, but fully under their control

8. Oppositions are not necessarily at the heart of a problem, the imagined hard separation barrier between them more often is

9. The black box is a socio-technological, political and a gendered concept

10. The average does not characterise a population, neither does narrow problem solving characterise intelligence

11. Ph.D. committees should look like a nest of fluffy Cockapoo puppies, sound like Shostakovich, and smell like freshly baked bread.