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Education and Practice

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Abstract – The Society for the Social Studies of Science. (4S)

Art and Technology in a Post-Phenomenological and Critical Theoretical Perspective. Education and Practice.

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The German exile Walter Benjamin wrote in 1936: "Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" after having discussed the essay extensively with his colleague Theodor W. Adorno. The same year Martin Heidegger writes: "The Origin of the Work of Art". The discussions on dialectics in art and technology between Benjamin and Adorno, and the apparent dichotomous stance of Heidegger defines the framework of this paper, where I will discuss the current situation for what concerns the merging and intertwining of art and technology in an educational, societal and philosophical perspective.

It is the assumption that a fruitful dialectics in between the Critical Theoretical philosophy of science and technology and a Post-Phenomenological philosophy of science and technology is actually taking place in various educational institutions, like for instance the Art & Technology Department at Aalborg University (DK), and furthermore flourishing in the 'real' world like in the work of the American artist Natalie Jeremijenko and the Danish art-group Superflex. The intent of the paper is to unravel the intrinsic meaning of the work of art within the framework of philosophy of technology, and show how there is a turn within the arts toward production of meaningful practice in everyday life settings like educational institutions and art-technologies that perform on a permanent basis in urban and rural contexts.

Keywords: Art and technology, Critical Theory and Post-phenomenology, Education and Practice.

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