

**Subject:** EVA International Evening, EVA and the Metaverse, 5th July 2022

**Date:** Saturday, 25 June 2022 at 17.14.04 Western European Summer Time

**From:** Terry Trickett

**To:** Susan Hazan, Tula Giannini, Fiongunnlive.co.uk, Marcos Lutyens, Michael Cutajar, Tania Lopez Winkler, Prof. Moshe Caine, Ann Borda, Oliver Mag Gingrich, Maureen Kendal, Maria Almena, Ricardo Dal Farra, Hinchliffe, Taylor, Anthony Lewis Brooks, Vito Cappellini, Camille Baker

**CC:** BCS\_London@bcs.uk, Jonathan Bowen, Graham Diprose, Sean Clark

Dear Contributors to 'EVA and the Metaverse'

Many of you have responded to my invitation to make a short presentation or express thoughts and ideas on 'EVA and the Metaverse: the art that will make us'. Thank you, in advance, for contributing to the debate.

As far as possible, I aim to facilitate a free flowing discussion but, clearly, in an event which is hybrid (ie. physical and online), we have to anticipate those things that might go wrong so that they don't. This precaution applies particularly to contributors wanting to show slides and videos. I can assure you that we want to see them which is why, this year, at BCS, we'll be adopting procedures for making life easier for you.

David Neatu at BCS and his team will be responsible for IT support; they will be on hand during the EVA International Evening to set up slides and start recordings and videos etc.

As you already know, no contributor can take longer than 5 minutes (and it can be less). I should warn you that I will prompt you to stop if you go overtime. Our debate should be given time to develop; 5 minute planned interjections will take their place within a free flowing discussion, where contributors fling ideas from one end of the world to another.

To assist the BCS team in its task, I've drawn up a provisional order of contributors. I know this will be subject to change but, at least, it will give BCS a chance of organising presentation material in advance, both for those speaking from BCS in London, end for those online, worldwide. I'm expecting that some on my list may decide not contribute, others may declare their intention at the last minute. All these fluctuations have to be allowed for:

Susan Hazan	CEO, Digital Heritage	Israel
Tula Giannini	Chair, EVA London Symposium,	USA
Fion Gunn	Artist, A-maze artists	Ireland
Marcos Lutyens	Artist, sharing the unconscious	USA
Michael Cutajar	Metaverse Architects	Malta
Tania Lopez Winkler	Senior Tutor (research) RCA	Mexico
Moshe Caine	Professor, Hadassah Academic College	Israel
Richard Collmann	Professor, University of Melbourne	Australia
Olive Mag Gingrich	Founder, Artists in Flux	UK
Maureen Kendal	EVA London, organising committee	UK
Maria Almena	Kimatica Studio, Founder, Artists in Flux	UK
Ricardo dal Farra	Professor of Music Dept. Concordia University	Canada
Taylor Hinchcliffe	Biomedical Engineering, UT – Dallas	USA

Tony Brooks	Professor, Aalborg University	Denmark
Vito Cappellini	EVA Florence	Italy
Camille Baker	Professor, Interactive and Immersive Arts	UK

Exceptions to the five minute rule will occur at both ends of the debate. Susan Hazan will take 10 minutes to introduce the different approaches to the Metaverse: the highly commercialised Meta version, my art driven fantasy world (as she calls it) and her own concerns with cultural heritage institutions. If she agrees, Camille Baker will have 10 minutes at the end to make sense of the proceedings.

The difficulties of controlling a worldwide debate are understood by BCS but 'EVA and the Metaverse' will be a first in terms of its complexity, so we have to introduce a set of procedures that will help it to run smoothly. These apply particularly if you intend to use slides or videos as part of your 5 minute contributions.

### **Procedures**

Please send an email by Friday, 1st July, to [BCS\\_London@bcs.uk](mailto:BCS_London@bcs.uk), marked for the attention of David Neatu, with a copy to me at [terrytrick@mac.com](mailto:terrytrick@mac.com). Put EVA International Evening and your name in the subject line.

Provide details of your slides (PowerPoint or PDF) and links to videos on YouTube. For those presenting at BCS, there will be a clicker for controlling slides. For those online you should say 'next' to have your slide changed.

I have agreed with David Neatu that I will assist the BCS team by checking presentation material and providing references for each contributor so that BCS can identify what's needed and when. (This is why your emails should arrive by 1<sup>st</sup> July – before the EVA London Conference starts on the 4<sup>th</sup>)

If attending physically, also do bring a USB stick for safety. If attending via Zoom, do have your slides available to present in the normal way on Zoom, if needed.

Please note that we will be recording the 'EVA and the Metaverse' debate. Sean Clark will be putting the result online on YouTube.

If, by any chance, something unexpected happens, I will move on to the next contributor but don't worry, I will always return once any problems have been resolved.

As you know, in my initial invitation e-mail, I attached a 'position paper' which raised a few key questions:

How should EVAs, worldwide, face up to the challenge of the Metaverse?

Has EVA got something special to offer (ie due to its far-flung international membership embracing the creative industries, academia, and science)?

If so, how should EVA's efforts be coordinated?

Can we perceive the beginnings of an EVA Metaverse?

Do we agree that the development of a 'Metaverse aesthetic' is of crucial concern and that EVA is well placed to define it?

The above are just a few of the many topics that need to be addressed but please keep them in mind. I'm hoping that our debate can provoke further action and collaboration between EVAs worldwide.

Now, just a reminder that the **EVA INTERNATIONAL EVENING takes place on Tuesday, 5 July, 17.30 – 19.30 (BST)**. Check out your local time at <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>. Also, please remember that you need to register for this **free event** at <https://eva050722.eventbrite.co.uk>. Most of you have already done this.

Finally, I'm much looking forward to seeing you there. I believe that, between us, we have the vision to seize the biggest creative opportunity the Earth has ever offered.

With best wishes

Terry Trickett, EVA International Liaison