

The Project “**Visonenkessel**” (Vision Boiler) at the University of Art Bremen

Summary:

Visionenkessel (Vision Boiler) is a network between fine arts, sciences and economy in the new media technologies. Its goal is to take up and develop, to initiate and support trans-disciplinary projects.

Concept:

The boiler can be seen as an example for an old technology: steam power.

How does this technology work?

The energy, i.e. steam, is produced in the boiler. The boiler is heated and the produced steam is used. The boiler names a technology developed before the creation of electricity, but a technology that consequently managed to create electricity.

If the motif of the boiler represents one of the first mechanical technologies, it marks the ground from which many things could be unfolded and developed, even the initiation of advanced technologies. This perspective makes the boiler no longer appear as the regressive motif for projects of “new media technologies”. Moreover, it succeeds in indicating that it does not only succumb to the continuous new technologies, but respectively reflects its basis or explores it in a pool.

Here, exploring does not only mean to contribute to the realizations, for example exploring the learning capacity of an autonomous and self-learning system, but at the same time reflecting these developments and its related visions - even the one stating that it will be possible in future to build robots capable of surpassing the physical and mental capability of humans.

Facing this development, questions from the most different perspectives have to and can be asked. Questions formulated by artists, scientists, even developers from the economy and the answers to which can be looked for in the work with the technology itself. However, the answers will always be limited and new questions will continue to arise. Visionenkessel (Vision boiler) intends to confront these questions.

Therefore, the interfaces between the three fields have to be prepared, dramatized, supported, explored and exploited. Existing next to one another can thus be turned into existing within one another. An impossibility - one could easily say. But in the Visionenkessel (Vision boiler) this impossibility is understood as an utopia and consequently as an engine for visions, for a **"laboratory of the future"**.

Projects venturing experiments and at the same time attempt to approach artistic as well as scientific and economic causes and goals are to be initiated and supported by Visionenkessel (Vision Boiler). The artistic design or the mutual demands might accordingly differentiate:

For example, science and art and music might cooperate in a mutual question in the field of human-machine-communication concerning the topical field of space cognition, the results of which might be interesting for the economy in the long run. Artistic presentations could at the same time make an public audience experience the use of (brand) new technologies, or make an audience sensitive for the use of such technologies.