

The Santa Monica opens *Boom Crash Candy Crush*, an exhibition on dopamine, data and militarisation



28/10/2026
31/01/2027

mònica

Una exposició amb:

Hito Steyerl, Shona Illingworth, May Murad, Jessica Ekomane, Heba Y. Amin, Noura Tafeche, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Mar Medina + Roc Jiménez de Cisneros + Joana Moll, Mario Santamaría, Aram Bartholl, Faith Holland, aaajiao, Conrad Weise + Kjell Wistoff, ¥\$Si Perse, César Escudero + Martin Nadal, Sarah Ciston, Asia Bazdyrieva, Ben Grosser i laSADCUM

Entrada gratuïta

Generalitat de Catalunya

- The exhibition, curated by Joana Moll and Enric Puig Punyet, brings together nearly twenty local and international artists, including Hito Steyerl, Shona Illingworth, Aram Bartholl, ¥\$Si Perse and Mario Santamaría.
- The exhibition reveals that seemingly harmless apps, such as Candy Crush, form part of surveillance and data-extraction mechanisms that feed large corporations and the military industry. At the same time, it explores the militarisation of bodies through the addictive behavioural patterns generated by new technologies and digital devices.
- The exhibition is complemented by a public programme of activities and lectures that expands on the debates raised in the exhibition and brings together contemporary voices such as Shona Illingworth, Tatiana Bazzichelli, Noura Tafeche, Flavia Dzodan, Lisa Ling and Erica Friscioni.
- *Boom Crash Candy Crush* opens on 28 October at 7 pm, and can be visited free of charge until 31 January 2027.
- The press conference will take place on 28 October at 11:00 a.m. and will be attended by the curators and the artists Aram Bartholl, Faith Holland, May Murad, Mario Santamaría, Heba Y. Amin, Conrad Weise + Kjell Wistoff, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Mar Medina + Roc Jiménez de Cisneros, César Escudero + Martin Nadal, and laSADCUM.

On Wednesday 28 October at 7 pm, the Santa Mònica will open *Boom Crash Candy Crush*, an exhibition that explores how new technologies condition and militarise our bodies through the addictive behavioural patterns embedded in digital interfaces. Curated by the artist and researcher Joana Moll and the director of the arts centre, Enric Puig Punyet,

the exhibition also focuses on the mechanisms of surveillance and data traffic that erode human agency, at a time when **leisure and war share infrastructure, both in the physical space and on screens.**

Based on this premise, *Boom Crash Candy Crush* brings together works by local and international artists such as **Hito Steyerl, Shona Illingworth, May Murad, Jessica Ekomane, Heba Y. Amin, Noura Tafeche, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Mar Medina + Roc Jiménez de Cisneros + Joana Moll, Mario Santamaría, Aram Bartholl, Faith Holland, aaajiao, Conrad Weise + Kjell Wistoffm, ¥\$Si Perse, César Escudero + Martin Nadal, Sarah Ciston, Asia Bazdyrieva, Ben Grosser and laSADCUM.**

Behind the endless waterfalls and explosions of sparkling sweets in Candy Crush lies one of the most effective mechanisms of techno-capitalism: the compulsion loop. Designed to generate digital submission habits by means of **microdoses of dopamine**, this mechanism turns constant reward into a tool for capturing and retaining our attention. The exhibition explores everyday actions such as **swiping a finger across the screen or arching one's back in front of devices** to show how our bodies are connected to digital technologies. Every gesture can become a source of data for large technology companies, **in an ecosystem in which the digital industry and the military sector establish ever-closer ties.**

***Boom Crash Candy Crush* thus points to the intersection between bodies, everyday life, technology, capital and the global military-industrial complex.** Through play and surveillance, the exhibition explores how these systems transform our relationship with screens and delves into the **erosion of our capacity to act, decide and attribute meaning to our own actions.**

The exhibition is complemented by a **public programme of participatory activities, performances, concerts and choreographies**, which will continue to explore the issues raised by the exhibition. In addition, some of the **lectures from the participatory art and thought programme "(create) Situations"**, dedicated to the concept of "military brain rot", will be open to the public and will be led by thinkers and researchers such as Shona Illingworth, Tatiana Bazzichelli, Noura Tafeche, Lisa Ling and Erica Friscioni.

The Santa Mònica, an arts centre open to experimentation and new creation

Boom Crash Candy Crush is an extension of the Santa Mònica's work to promote **exhibitions conceived as spaces for research, production and debate on contemporary artistic practices.** Through projects that combine **new artistic creation, curatorial experimentation and participatory public actions**, the centre explores new ways of relating art, thought and the public.

In parallel, **Les Mòniques**, 21 resident artists at the centre selected by public call, are organised into guilds that develop projects and activities linked to this programme to

contribute to making Santa Mònica a living space for creation, research and shared cultural production.

Credits for *Boom Crash Candy Crush*

Artists: Hito Steyerl, Shona Illingworth, May Murad, Jessica Ekomane, Heba Y. Amin, Noura Tafeche, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Mar Medina + Roc Jiménez de Cisneros + Joana Moll, Mario Santamaría, Aram Bartholl, Faith Holland, aaajiao, Conrad Weise + Kjell Wistoffm, ¥€\$Si Perse, César Escudero + Martín Nadal, Sarah Ciston, Asia Bazdyrieva, Ben Grosser and laSADCUM

Curation: Joana Moll and Enric Puig Punyet

Graphic image and exhibition design: Todojunto. Ricardo Duque, Leticia Ortín and Tiago Pina

Architectural design: Marina Otero and Andrea Muniáin

With the collaboration of: Domos Barcelona

More information: [Boom Crash Candy Crush](#) | [Press Room](#)

Communications and Press: ceciliabergeret@gencat.cat (+34) 935 547 861 / 677 292 126

Visitor information: Tuesday to Sunday and bank holidays: 11.00 am – 8.30 pm

Free admission.