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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Centre for Emotional Materiality

October 2 - November 24, 2018

August 3, 2018, San Francisco, CA - Southern Exposure presents *The Centre for Emotional Materiality*, a project produced by multimedia artist Surabhi Saraf and curated by SoEx Curatorial Council member Sophia Wang.

The Centre for Emotional Materiality (CEM) is a site for research, conversations, and experiences that explore the evolving role technology serves in our emotional lives, as well as the care work that sustains our social and labor relationships. A core focus for CEM's research is the philosophical experiment of Awoke, a mythical Artificial Emotional Intelligence (AEI) that can embody the anxieties - and therefore, the feelings - of its human counterparts. At CEM, visitors can imagine the emotional work Awoke might carry out through ritual encounters with Awoke Practitioners and the related research conducted by CEM residents.



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During its two-month SoEx residency, CEM will host a public reading room and a program series featuring a public encounter with *Awoke*; workshops on somatic responses to everyday technologies by Indira Allegra and Surabhi Saraf; an online course via Instagram Stories on empathic sharing in virtual social space, led by Dorothy Santos, and a film screening. The series culminates with the launch of *Awoke* in VR format and a discussion panel on the ideas informing *Awoke*: embodied cognition and machine learning, the materials that enable technology, emergent myths and rituals that center technology in the social imagination, and how AEI impacts the people and economies that depend on emotional labor.

CEM is a collaborative research program led by CEM Founder Surabhi Saraf with Curator Sophia Wang, Residents Indira Allegra, Laura Hyunjhee Kim, Tiare Ribeaux, Dorothy Santos, and *Awoke* practitioners Gabe Christian, Felix Sol Linck-Frenz, Stephanie Hewitt, Emelia Martinez Brumbaugh, and Randy Reyes. Additional Residents and practitioners to be announced.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *The Centre for Emotional Materiality*

When: October 2 – November 24, 2018

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

Cost: FREE

What: *The Centre for Emotional Materiality* Opening Reception and Performance

When: Friday, October 12, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

Cost: FREE

ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For press inquiries and images, contact Roula Seikaly at 415-863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org.

Southern Exposure is located at [3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110](https://www.soex.org/3030-20th-street-san-francisco-ca-94110). Office hours

are Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 6 PM. Admission is always FREE. Website: www.soex.org.