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Shadows of Drones at EPFL's ArtLab

An installation celebrates a quarter century of aerial robotics from the Laboratory of Intelligent Systems



More than 30 drones, developed over the course of 27 years in Dario Floreano's Laboratory of Intelligent Systems (LIS) at EPFL, will be among the protagonists of an exhibition that marks the 50th anniversary of EPFL.

Opening on 13 September and running until 26 January 2020, **Infinity Room 2** is a project by ArtLab (the exposition space attached to the EPFL College of Humanities) that reveals elements of the rich history of the school through eight installations. Among them is **Shadows of Drones**, that showcases the pioneering work on aerial robotics at EPFL since 1992. Starting from the 1992 CrossFly, a remotely controlled rotorcraft made of balsa wood, the installation assembles all kinds of indoor and outdoor machines: rotorcraft, vision-based drones, collision-resilient winged drones, drones with gimballed exoskeletons capable of rolling against obstacles and a range of bio-inspired quadcopters with origami arms or bird-inspired feathers. Aerial pocket camera drones, foldable delivery drones, drones that morph allowing both aerial and terrestrial locomotion, drones that can listen and even perch on ceilings complete this ensemble of visionary science and flies us into the future.

Many of the drones on display (such as the Packdrone, the DALER walking drone, the dual-stiffness origami drone) were developed with support from NCCR Robotics, of which Dario Floreano is Director.



The Infinity Room 2 exhibition, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of EPFL, also includes 7 other installations: **Archive of Modern Construction**, that exposes the origins of the built campus, as envisioned through its originating architects; the **Alain Herzog Archive**, a sweeping collection by a single photographer created over a quarter century; **Campus Chronicles**, based on how the EPFL magazines Polyrama (1970–2006), Flash (1973–2016) and EPFL Magazine (2016–2018), have chronicled campus life for nearly 40 years; **Super-vision**, documenting the 8000 PhD theses defended over 50 years, the efforts of young researchers revealed in an interactive browser; **Balélec Nights**, a visual interface that provides the portal to a journey of discovery through 10 000 images of EPFL's celebratory night and its 39 editions; **Archival Constellations**, where participants unfold an experience based on the social network constellations of jazz luminaries from the Montreux Jazz Archive; **Open Science**, an eclectic assemblage of fifty scientific and iconic objects from EPFL are exhibited inside an array of augmented storage lockers.



On 14 and 15 September, the EPFL Open Days will also feature the NCCR Robotics Pavillon, showcasing wearable systems for rehabilitation, rescue robotics, educational robotics and spin-offs.

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NCCR Robotics

The Swiss National Center of Competence in Robotics (NCCR Robotics) is a federally funded programme bringing together robotics laboratories from EPFL, ETH Zurich, University of Zurich, IDSIA and UNIBE to work on wearable, rescue and educational robots.

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