

Hops Ahead: The Art of Alternate Histories, Presents, and Futures

Call for Work

for an Exhibit at

The International Conference on Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS) University of California Santa Cruz, December 4–7, 2022

Curators, Clara Fernández-Vara and Nick Montfort

Jurors to be announced

Deadline, **July 31, 2022**

Apply using this form: <https://forms.gle/HUPu2dDYWbmTT47c7>

This juried, in-person exhibit will be presented in a space at the University of California, Santa Cruz — the conference venue for ICIDS — and will be open to the public. A website with documentation of work will be prepared along with the exhibit and remain online indefinitely. After the exhibit, artists will be invited to contribute to a peer-reviewed volume.

Julio Cortázar's novel *Rayuela* (in English, *Hopscotch*) connected a well-known game with the novel in February 1963, inviting readers to encounter the text in more than one order. This book, by an Argentine writer working in Paris, still offers us perspectives on consciousness and perception, raises questions about home and exile, and presents a format for speculating about alternate presents and realities. It was a radical literary experiment (a fully realized interactive narrative in book form) that immediately became a bestseller and remains a classic.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of *Hopscotch* and explore the potential of interactive narrative to envision alternate and future realities, we welcome submissions of digital artwork on the following **THEMES**:

- Alternate histories, presents, and futures
- Social connection and disconnection
- Cultural universals and differences
- Working across languages
- Playful words and languages

We welcome artworks in (at least) the following **FORMS and FORMATS:**

- Browser-based interactive digital art
- Electronic literature
- Parser-based interactive fiction
- Narrative-driven games
- Twine games / “Twines”
- Visual novels
- HTML5 narratives / games
- Bitsy games
- Art installations
- AR, VR, and XR works

The venue will provide flat panel displays and standard controllers (including keyboards) for the exhibit. Artists who propose artworks that require additional equipment and custom installation will need to come to the venue to install their work or arrange for its installation, and will need to provide any support required for visitor experience during the exhibit.

We welcome submissions in any language. All submissions will be reviewed by jurors to the highest standards, with language- and literature-specific expertise enlisted when necessary. Please note that artworks engaging with interactive narrative do not have to have *any* linguistic elements.

Fees for Artists

Accepted artists will **not** be required to pay registration or membership fees as a condition of having their work presented at Hops Ahead. Although all of ICIDS, including the exhibit, is supported entirely by conference attendees, in recognition of the way that arts enlighten the field of interactive digital narrative, a small honorarium will instead be offered to each artist/collective whose work is exhibited. Please note that anyone wishing to attend and participate in the ICIDS conference itself will still be required to pay the usual registration and membership fees.