



End to End **Curatorial Statement**

End to End: a principle of designing networked communication so that it allows for an exchange of information that is as direct and uninterrupted as possible. It ascribes to the network a role of the dumb carrier, while intelligence lies in the nodes; the senders and receivers. “No intermediaries” was also supposed to mean no surveillance or manipulation of information. From one event to the next. From one person to another. From this node to that node. But what happened before, in between, and what comes after? With End to End’s network idealism now long gone and the internet now an ubiquitous infrastructure corroded by centralizing platforms, a veritable backlash against negative network effects such as surveillance, propaganda, and addiction is now in full swing. In this context, transmediale 2020 asks what might remain of the progressive promises of decentralization, and whether network thinking and practice, which intensified in the 1990s and matured in the early 2000s, still holds the potential to tackle urgent contemporary issues such as AI and ecological crisis.

Might End to End, besides being a coveted design principle in network architectures, also stand for a renewed desire for more intimate and direct relations with other individuals or individuals, and infrastructures? And are relations outside the network again desirable; in other words, is there a desire to become disintermediated? That is also, paradoxically, an expression of a holistic ideal of regaining control of the whole process ... from End to End. Which and whose ends? Within the opaque relationality between humans and technological infrastructures that characterizes the integration of artificial intelligence into networks, a movement of disintermediation from big platforms is currently gaining traction. Furthermore, End to End resonates with today’s most urgent issue, climate change, and the social movements that now rejuvenate protest tactics and decentralized organizational structures as well as awareness of circular economies and a rethinking of the ecologies of the human and the nonhuman.

Applying a multiversal approach, we invite you to explore transmediale 2020 as moving from end to end, and with them also to new beginnings.