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V&A's Irimi Papadimitriou appointed new Creative Director of FutureEverything, Manchester

Now in its twenty-fourth year, Manchester-based digital culture organisation FutureEverything prepares to enter an exciting new growth period with Irimi Papadimitriou at the helm delivering artistic leadership and creative direction.

The appointment comes as company Founder, Dr Drew Hemment, moves to a key strategic role on the FutureEverything Board.

futureeverything.org

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This week, FutureEverything announces the appointment of Irimi Papadimitriou to the role of Creative Director with the company.

Currently Digital Programmes Manager at London's V&A and Head of New Media Arts for Watermans, Irimi will leave both posts to make the move to Manchester-based FutureEverything in October this year — a notable move, demonstrating the ever-thriving cultural and creative sector in the North West of England.

An accomplished curator, producer and cultural figure, Irimi has worked at the forefront of digital culture across the UK and internationally and has led a number of high profile cultural initiatives, including the Digital Design Weekend and Digital Futures for the V&A, and Watermans' annual Digital Performance festival. Irimi is also the co-founder of Maker Assembly, and an Art & Design Associate with Mozilla.

Irimi Papadimitriou says:

"I am thrilled to be joining FutureEverything, a leading and inspirational organisation that has been producing and presenting groundbreaking work for so many years. I am also very excited to be moving to the vibrant and creative city of Manchester, a world capital of the arts. I look forward to working with the talented FutureEverything team and the community in Manchester, but also in the rest of the UK and internationally, to forge new connections, enable new ideas to develop, and open new ground for critical conversations about the potential and impact of technology, innovation and digital culture today."

Irimi joins FutureEverything during a pivotal era of growth and organisational shift that has seen a spate of new hires over the last 12 months and the addition of a new service design team. As part of this shift, the

company continues to build its research programme, and to develop outlets and funders for new media art in non-art domains. And also to transform the ways it delivers its eponymous festival of digital culture, transitioning to new models and continuing to extend its global reach.

Andy Stratford, Managing Director, says:

“The appointment of Irimi is a key part of our [Change Creation](#) strategy, a groundbreaking Arts Council England programme involving and engaging organisations to create and realise lasting change. We are thrilled to welcome her to the team here in Manchester”

Established in 1995, FutureEverything operates at the intersection of art, culture and technology, taking an artist-led approach to consider the impact of technology in creative and unexpected ways. Using art and participatory experiences as a lens, FutureEverything helps people reflect on and understand the changing world around them. With her broad experience in digital culture, emerging technology, and innovative arts commissioning, Irimi will play a key role in continuing to deliver and shape this mission.

Drew Hemment, FutureEverything Founder, says:

“Over the last 23 years, FutureEverything has had the pleasure of working with leading creative figures from around the world in art, technology and digital culture. In all those years, one continuous feature has been positive disruption and change. 2018 is no different, so we’re very pleased to welcome Irimi Papadimitriou to the FutureEverything team as our new Creative Director. Irimi is an extremely accomplished and inspiring artistic leader, and we believe she will surprise us and our community anew.

As for me? I’ll be remaining in a leadership role on the FutureEverything Board of Directors, while also working on some large-scale international work. I also have some exciting news on the horizon, but more on that another time.”

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For further information, please contact Michelle Collier, Digital Comms Officer at FutureEverything: michelle@futureeverything.org / 0161 232 4600

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Notes to Editors

About Irimi Papadimitriou

Irimi Papadimitriou is a curator, producer and cultural manager, working at the forefront of digital culture in the UK and internationally. She has been holding the position of Digital Programmes Manager at the V&A and Head of New Media Arts at Watermans.

As Digital Programmes Manager at the V&A, she has been responsible for the annual Digital Design Weekend, London's influential digital art and design festival, and Digital Futures, a networking platform presenting and discussing intersections of art, design, technology and science, and generating collaborations. She is also curating the Artificial Intelligent display, which will be open at the V&A from September to December 2018.

In her position at Watermans she has been curating the exhibition programme and the annual Digital Performance Weekender, exploring digital culture from a critical perspective and the impact of technology in society. Irini lectures regularly at universities in the UK and internationally and has served on the jury for Prix Ars Electronica Linz, the Lumen Prize, Vertigo Starts Artistic Residencies and for the ACM SIGGRAPH Distinguished LifeTime Achievement in Digital Art Award.

She has been curating the Mozilla Artists Open Web project with Luca Damiani, and she is a co-founder of Maker Assembly, a critical gathering about maker culture: its meaning, politics, history and future.

About FutureEverything

Established in Manchester in 1995, FutureEverything is an award-winning innovation lab and cultural agency that has helped shape the emergence of digital culture in Europe. FutureEverything operates at the intersection of art, technology and society. Taking an artist-led and human-centred approach, our offer provides a unique opportunity to consider, challenge and test the use of technology in creative and unexpected ways.

Starting life as an annual festival of digital culture, FutureEverything has evolved into an innovation lab offering bespoke smart city, IoT and cultural services for governments, communities, startups and international organisations. Using art and experiences as a lens to help people reflect on and understand the world around them, together we deliver meaningful engagement through innovative art commissions, living labs, demos and public events, often in non-art domains.

Current activities include a landmark talent development and commissioning programme called Fault Lines, CREATE IoT (support action for the European IoT large scale pilots) and the GROW Observatory (an international citizens' observatory for soil, food, and climate data.)

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