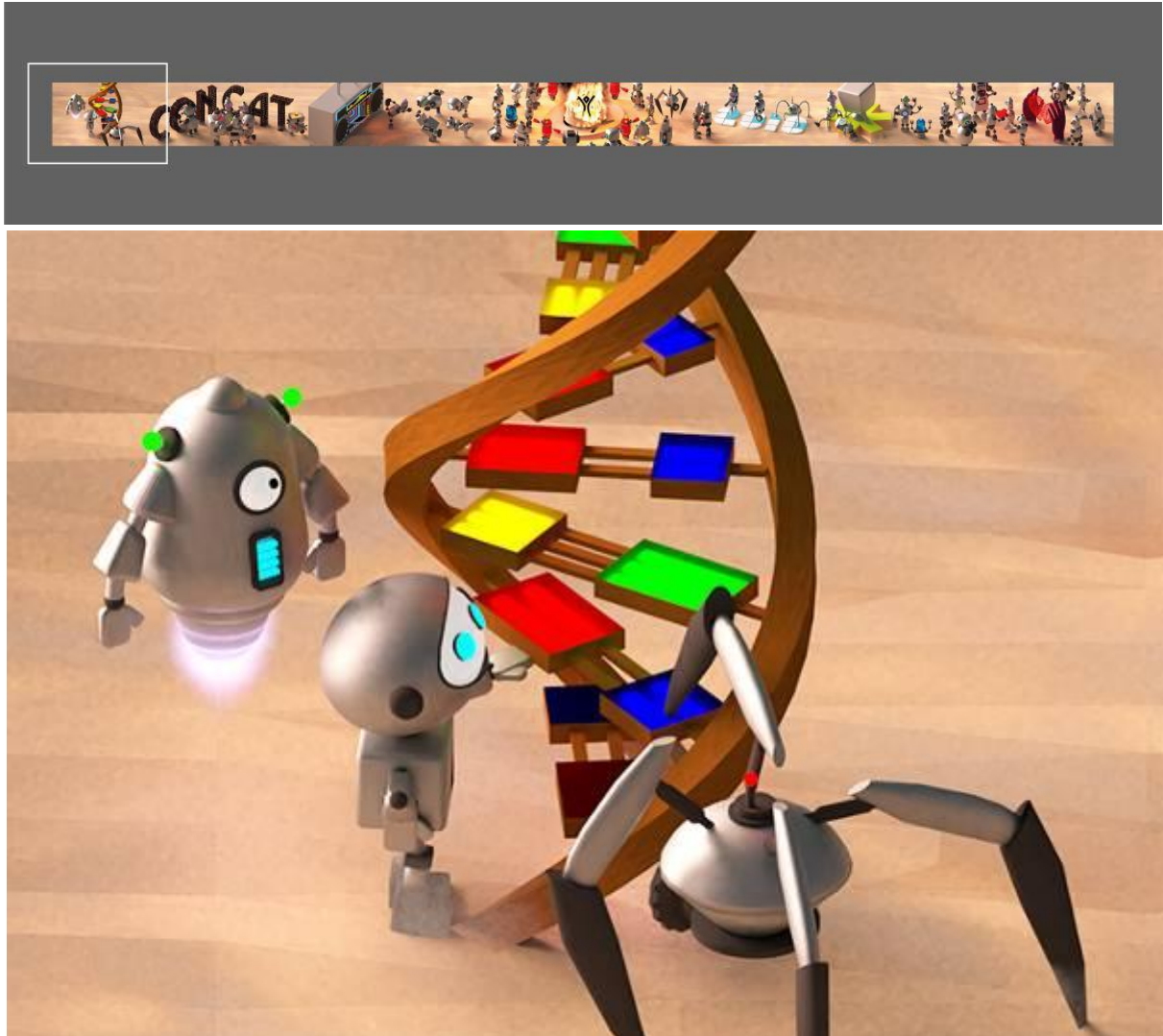


# A-N-D-N-A

*The foundation of life*



The human species is mesmerized by technology and artificial intelligence; I envisioned a similar culture amongst robots, where they, as artificially created life forms, are fascinated by biological life.

This art installation represents this fundamental code of life and is meant to honor the uniqueness of the DNA molecule. To do so I created a sophisticated, wooden structure of two intertwining staircases with steps that light up as soon as someone climbs them.

If you take a closer look, you will notice that there are different “species” of robots gathered around this installation. There is an airborne robot, a biped and a quadruped. Diversity is an essential part of an ecosystem and artificial ecosystems are no exception.

# CONCAT

*Birds of a feather flock together*



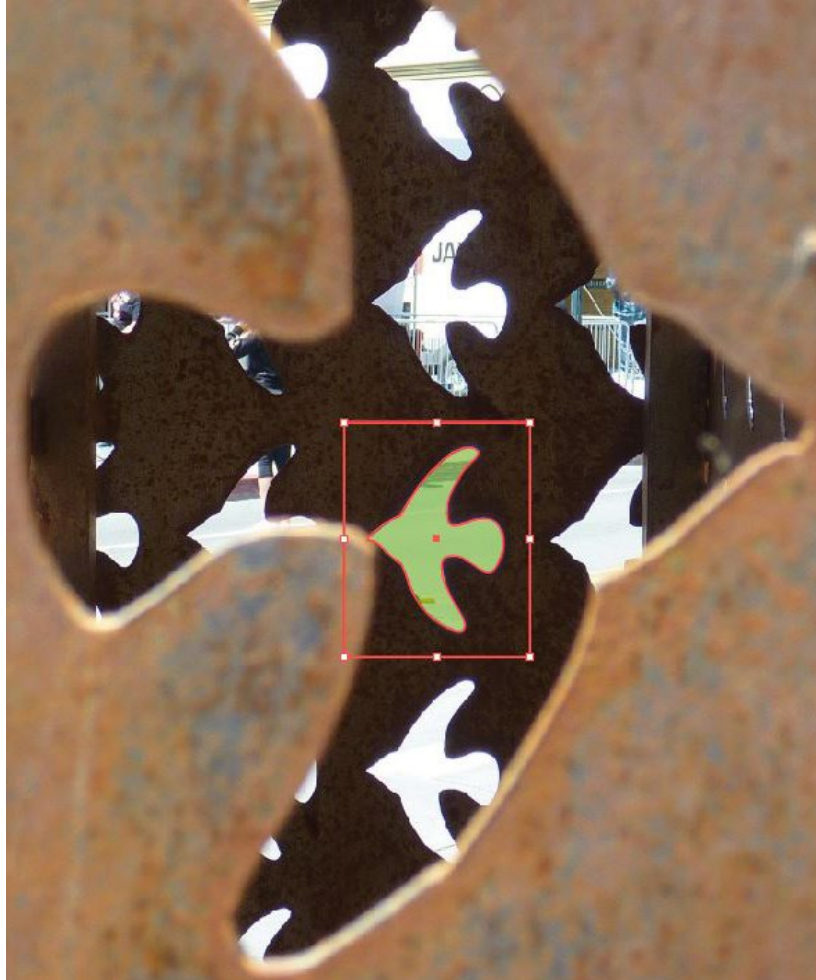
I love Laura Kimptons “Big Letter Words” installations at Burning Man. As a tribute to her art the robots have continued the tradition of putting affirming words out on Playa.



Unlike humans, robots utilize a language that they are more familiar with. “Concat” is a term in the programming language SQL and it is used to merge two tables (data blocks) together. This can be interpreted as a message to connect and unite.

In front of the installation you can see a group of robots engaged in a group hug with a small robot hastily running toward them from around the corner to participate. There is also a romantic couple that teases each other at the letter “O”.

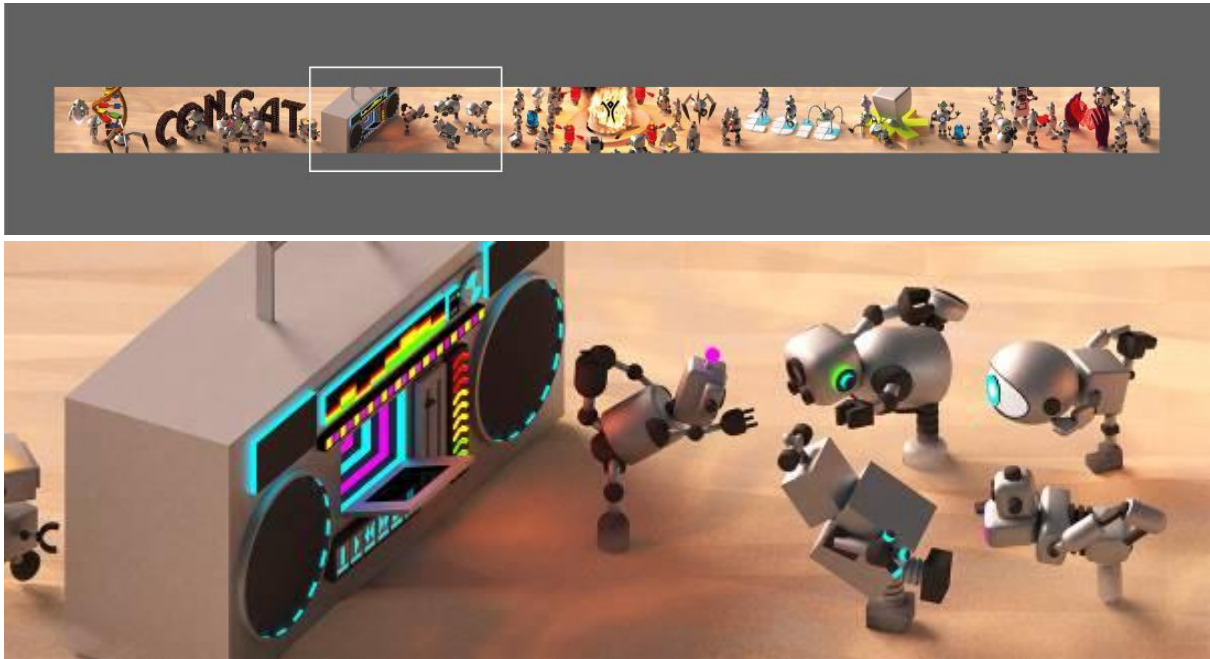
If you look closely, the letters are cut out with the shape of a bird. It is the same bird Laura has used in her art installations. When I learned what it meant for Laura and the significance of it in her life, I felt compelled to include this detail, even though it's not very noticeable in the final artwork.





# SUNSET YOGA

*Paths are many, truth is ONE*



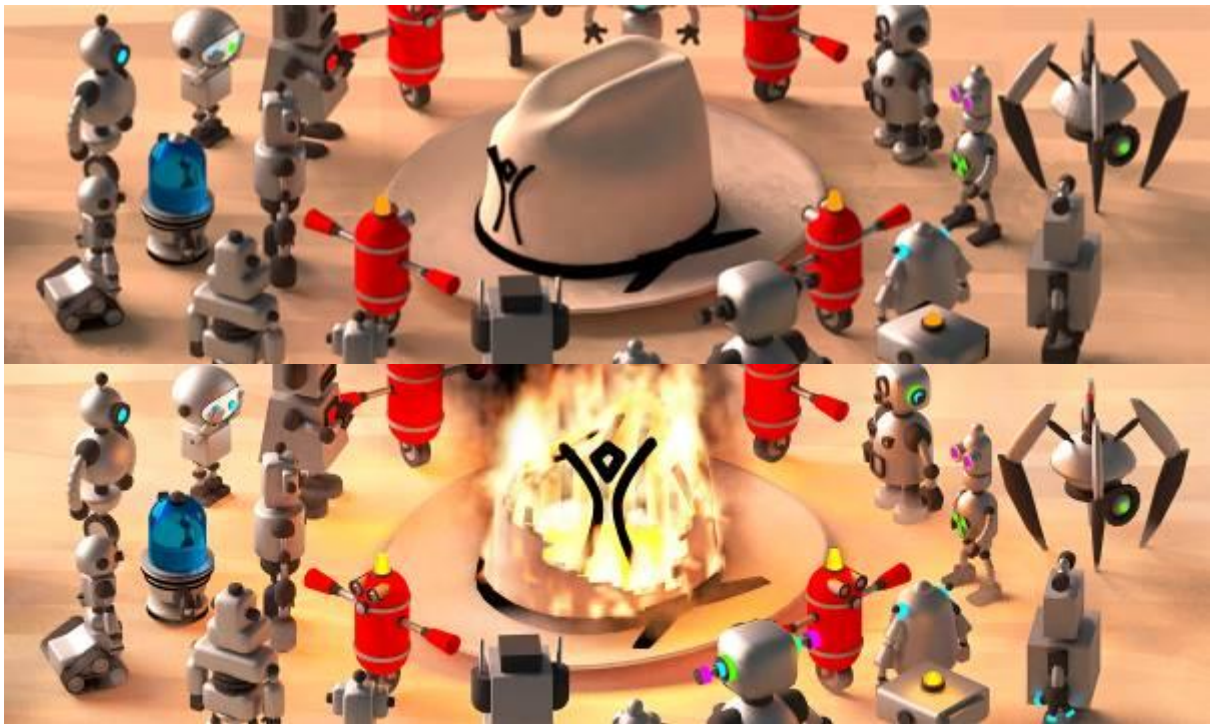
I believe that robots, like humans should incorporate yoga in their daily live routines to maintain their physicality and cease their positronic brain storm. This is inspired by a surreal scene I witnessed in 2014. The Boom box art car held a yoga class near the temple.



The yoga pose that the robots are in is called Dandayamana Dhanurasana and that it is intended to enhance patience, determination, focus, and balance.

# THE HAT BURN

What was lost in the fire you will find in the ashes



Larry Harvey, the founder of Burning Man, passed away this year. He always wore a Stetson hat which became an iconic symbol. Larry was known as “the man with the hat”.



This image comes to mind when I think of his passing.

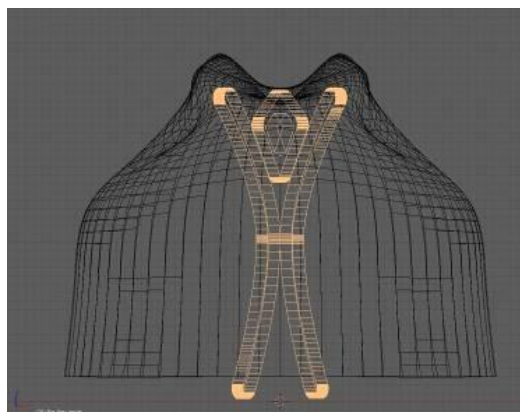


Larry Harvey, the founder of Burning Man, passed away this year. He always wore a Stetson hat which became an iconic symbol. Larry was known as “the man with the hat”. This image comes to mind when I think of his passing.

One thing I really admire about Larry is that he did not make Burning Man about him. He created something so meaningful and yet managed to leave out his ego completely and stay down to earth. Only the greatest souls are able to do so.

Usually, I would place the Burning Man effigy in the center of my wristbands, but this year, I set up a temple for Larry, shaped like a giant Stetson hat. It is to honor his life and a space to remember and mourn his passing. Therefore the usually light-colored ribbon of the hat was replaced with a black one.

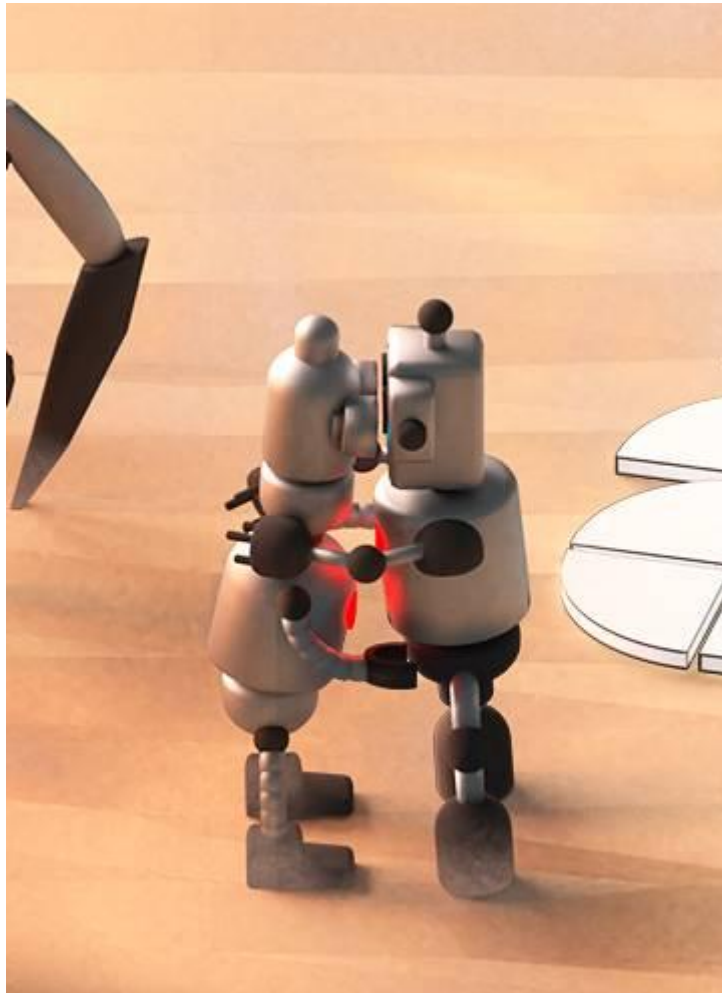
While the temple is consumed by flames it bears a message to the Burning Man Community. Hidden inside the Stetson temple is the Burning Man effigy that is revealed by the flames. It is the symbol of Larry’s legacy: Whereas his body is turning into ashes, the Burning Man Culture is here to stay. We will carry on what you have started, Larry. RIP





# THE KISSING COUPLE

*The first kiss was destiny knocking*



The Playa is a catalyst for love and romantic connections – some temporary, while others endure the test of time. This kissing couple symbolizes my girlfriend Hana and me. We fell in love at the Afrika Burn this year and I wanted to incorporate an alternate robot version of us in a parallel universe. And very much like in our relationship I am firmly hold in her grip.

# TRACKS OF TIME

*No time like the present*



Another element that I usually incorporate in my wristband designs is the year of the event. For this year's date I was inspired by the captivating art installation "Aqueous" by Jen Lewin.

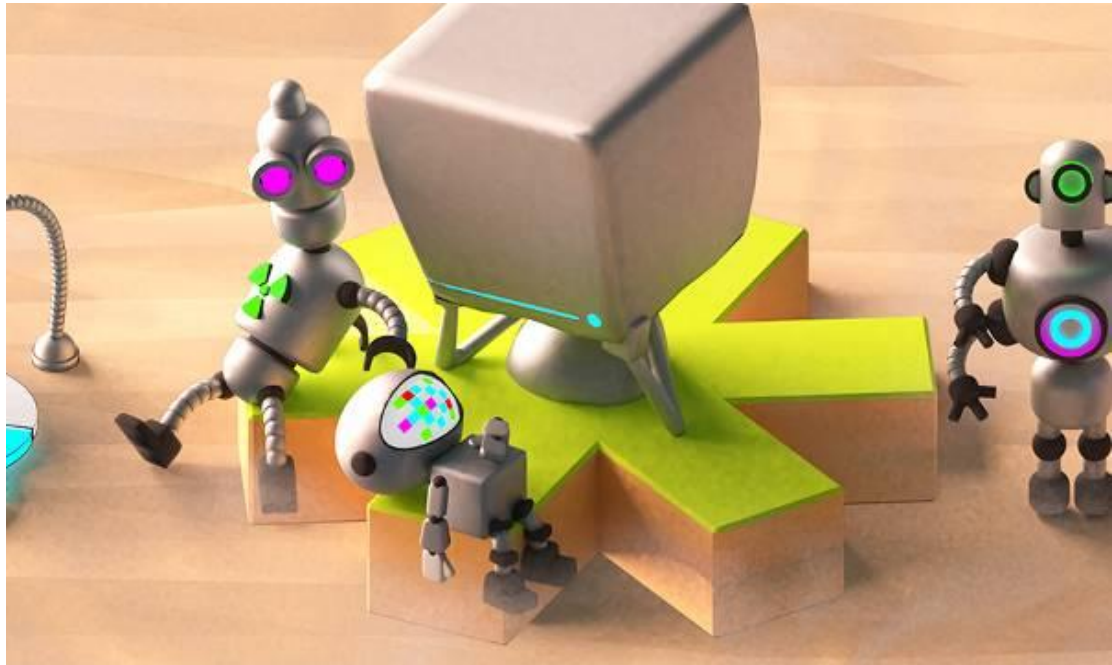
Last year, friends and I danced on it to the sounds of the Mayan Warrior and Robot Heart. It was one of my favorite moments of this Burn. When I close my eyes I still see us hugging, illuminated from below, immersed in the moment. I can imagine that the robots would have a great time experiencing this piece of art, too, especially the quadruped :)





# DEEP THOUGHT

*The answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything*



In the movie “The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy”, one of my favorite movies, there is a scene where the supercomputer “Deep Thought” gives the Answer to the “Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything”. It just took him mere 7.5 million years to find the answer. Who would not be excited to hear it!

And guess what. It is “42”!

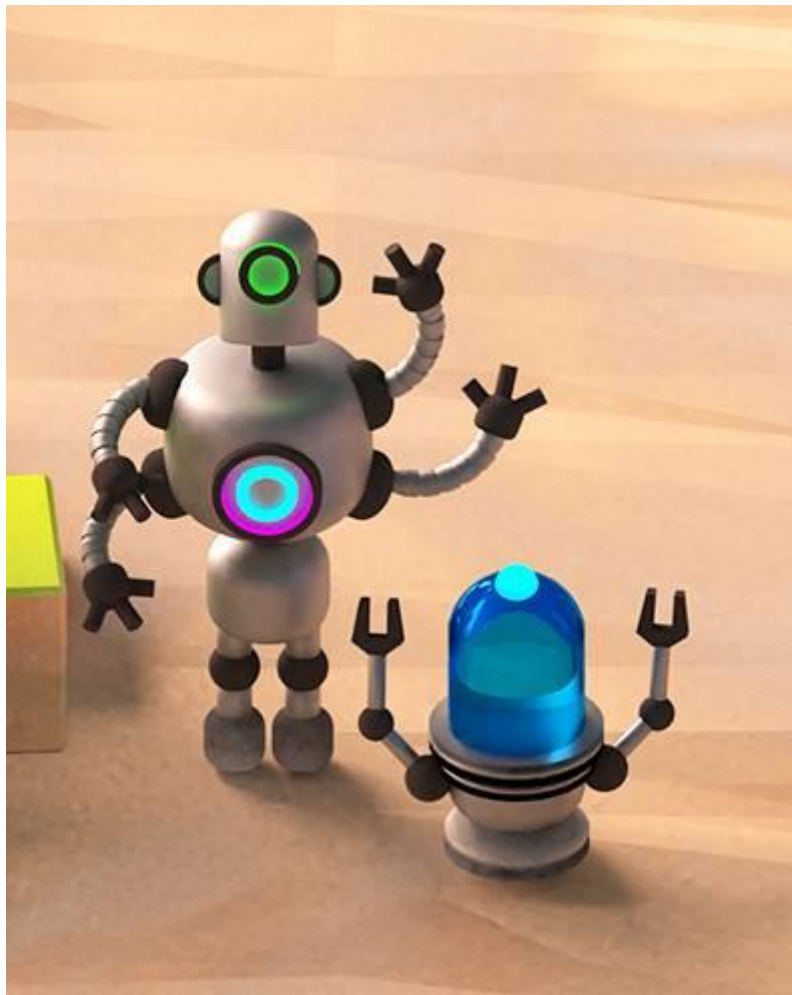
I always thought this scene was hilarious. But the answer Deep Thought is giving is much more than just a silly joke. It actually reveals a philosophical insight. In ASCII code, a character alphabet used for early programming languages, the 42nd character is an asterisk. In software development the asterisk is a wildcard character, a placeholder that can stand for anything. For example, if you search for “\*.jpg” on your computer the search shows any jpg images it can find on your hard drive.

With a twinkle in the eye - the answer to the ultimate question of life is: “Anything you want it to be!” There is no single or simple answer to the question what life means to somebody. Everybody has to find the right answer for themselves.

For this scene I imagined an art installation where Deep Thought sits enthroned on a pedestal, crunching calculations. The pedestal offers his creators a comfortable place to sit while the robots are patiently waiting for the answer. Ironically, the pedestal is shaped like a giant asterisk, so, without being aware of it, they already sit on the answer. We experience this all the time – only afterwards we realize that the answer we were looking for was all along right before our eyes.

# THE EYE IN THE SKY

*Every picture has a story to tell*

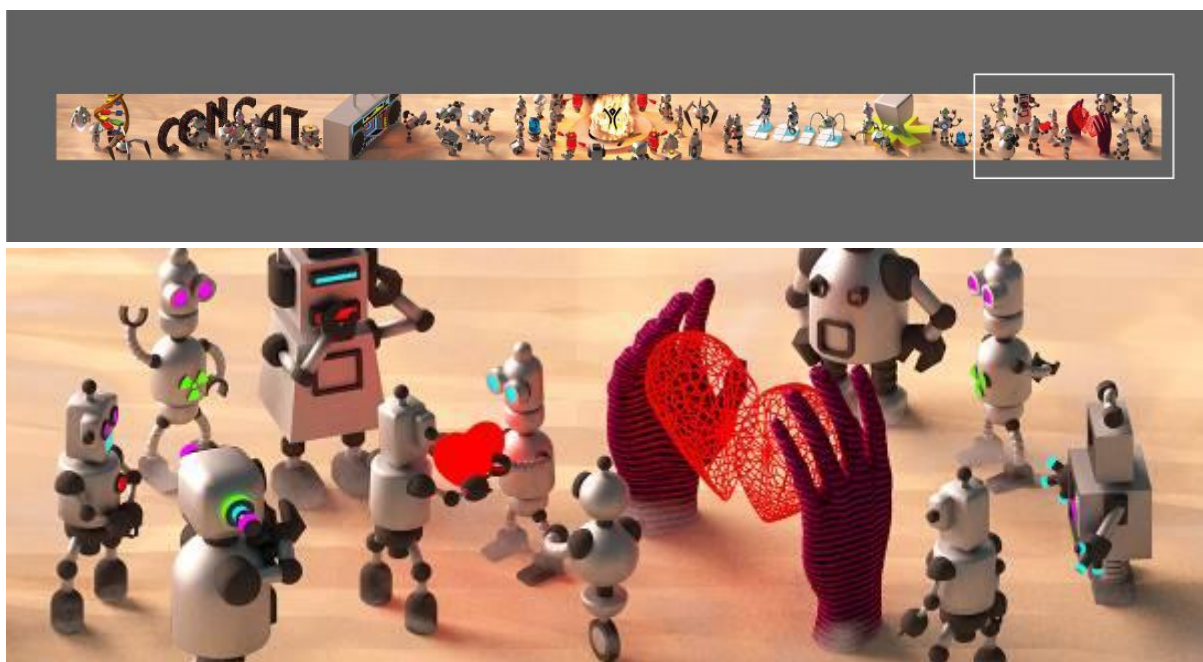


The panorama of this wristband with all of its details could only be captured by something flying high in the sky, most likely a drone or an airborne robot. I am sure other robots would have noticed it and waved for the camera.



# TO MEND A BROKEN HEART

*Where there is love there is growth*



Whenever I witness a marriage at Burning Man it touches me deeply. It is such a powerful statement of the significance the Burning Man holds for people. People choose the Burning Man to get married because it reflects who they are and where they feel at home - more than any other place. Therefore, the last scene of this wristband is dedicated to love and union.

Do robots want to get married? I do not know, but at Robot Man they certainly do. And like us humans they look for a meaningful place to exchange their vows. The installation with the two hands mending a broken heart is inspired by conversations with my friend An, who supported me during the creational phase of this wristband. I like the idea of two hands gently bringing together something intricate but broken. I imagine that people would be able to stand between the halves of a heart and when they listen closely they hear whispered lover's oaths.

In front of the installation a group of robots has gathered to witness the marriage of their friends. The couple holds a smaller and still intact version of the heart while they say the vows to each other. I envision the smaller heart would record the voices and replay them in the installation behind in a collective whisper of love affirmations.

FIN