# Willkommen, Welcome, Bienvenido, أهلاً وسهلاً, स्वागत है, 欢迎, ··· :-)

You somehow found your way to this website — maintained by the Creative Technologies Lab's team around Prof. Felix Hardmood Beck at FH Münster in the beautiful Münsterland region of North-Rhine Westphalia. Not only is NRW home to scenic landscapes and excellent coffee, it also happens to be one of Europe's strongest economic powerhouses, with 18 million inhabitants, over 700,000 SMEs, and more universities, research hubs, and incubators than one could reasonably visit in a week. Happy reading!

### **About us**

The Creative Technologies Lab<sup>1)</sup> is part of the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (ETI). We are based at the Technology Campus in the city of Steinfurt - a vibrant campus that lays the foundation for the department's mission to excel as a leading academic institution, equipped with state-of-theart facilities and fostering a dynamic environment for innovative teaching, cuttingedge research, and practical applications in computer science, electrical engineering, and information technology. The department's dedicated faculty, consisting of industry experts and experienced academics, ensures hands-on learning through collaborative projects, industry internships, and practical training. This approach prepares students for diverse careers while encouraging active participation in research, international exchange programs, and interdisciplinary initiatives.

The Creative Technology Lab embodies and actively supports the department's mission by serving as a vivid hub for interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering innovation at the intersection of design, technology, and engineering. Through its unique and welcoming work-culture, an open-door policy, and its available tools and infrastructure, the lab enables students and researchers to explore creative solutions to contemporary challenges applying all kinds of technologies. By integrating research-driven teaching, applied projects, and



close collaboration with industry, the lab strengthens the department's commitment to practical relevance, academic excellence, and innovation. In doing so, it not only prepares students for future-oriented careers but also contributes to the advancement of knowledge and technology in the wider Münsterland region, and in alignment with FH Münster's strategic goals <sup>2)</sup>.

#### What do we do in the lab?

We learn, teach, and work in the lab. We explore the intersection of design, technology, and creativity by developing innovative applications and systems in new media. Through interdisciplinary and international collaborations among students, faculty, researchers, and industry partners, we merge technological approaches with artistic perspectives to create groundbreaking concepts, products, and services. Our work is guided by a commitment to addressing real-world challenges, reimagining the potential of design and technology, and advancing media applications to drive meaningful transformation. By fostering a culture of experimentation, we embrace creativity, calculated risks, and purposeful innovation that responds to societal needs.

## What can students expect?

The lab is small, but cool! You will enter a hands-on environment where ideas are not only realized but also critically examined and refined. The lab is a research-driven space where creativity is intentionally purposeful and innovation is grounded in rigor. You will have the opportunity to develop solutions and sharpen your skills in fields such as human-computer interaction, media systems, and interactive design. Projects range from designing interactive installations for museums to creating IoTenabled devices for sustainable living or augmented reality (AR) applications for preserving cultural heritage. Here, experimentation and failure are embraced as valuable parts of the learning process, equipping students with practical experience to contribute

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to transformative projects that address tangible challenges.

#### How do we work?

Our work is influenced by the studio classroom we are working in. We are committed to fostering a welcoming community. Our teaching approach focuses on preparing students for the complexities of an interconnected world by fostering critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. Courses taught at the lab combine design, media, and technology, with a strong emphasis on human-centered design, hands-on prototyping and experiential learning. Students are guided through every stage of project development—from initial concepts and prototyping to production and management ensuring a balance between theoretical understanding and practical application. Innovation in the lab follows two complementary pathways: On the one hand, we develop and apply new technologies to solve specific problems, on the other hand, we explore openended ideas without predefined purposes, allowing for unexpected breakthroughs, or

sometimes also no breakthroughs at all.

Sometimes we develop cool stuff but also do not know what it could be used for. This dual approach enables interdisciplinary exploration by dissolving the boundaries between design, technology, art, and science. Whether addressing pressing issues or uncovering unforeseen possibilities, our process equips students with the skills and mindset needed to drive innovation and tackle the challenges of the future.

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