Technics & Touch: Body-Matter-Machine brings together practitioners Charles Anderson and Jondi Keane to test the limits of human and robot proficiencies. Through a series of experimental scenarios, the project aims to explore methods of producing feedback systems through perception and action cycles. Working alongside a robot, Anderson & Keane will construct a laboratory space for programmers, performers and the public to interact; to make and to discuss approaches to embodied, expanded and autonomous intelligent systems.

The exhibition consists of two parallel events: a laboratory space in Project Room 1, where the artists will 'in-residence', producing drawings in conjunction with the robot; and a procedural drawing exhibition in Project Room 2, where the outcomes of this human/non-human team will be exhibited alongside the work of practitioners who have been exploring rule-based drawing for some time.

Engaging humans and robots in friendly competition, this exhibition will find ways to pose questions to one another and expose what both can do well and what both can do better. One might imagine that humans excel at process adjustment, such as variation of touch relative to action already in-process and variation to another agent or material qualities. One might imagine a robot to have better precision and consistency in terms of the execution of lines in 2D and 3D space and the accurate repetition of those lines.

The tasks set for this project will reveal how the human/robot interface might be managed to expand the capabilities of both systems and propose new outcomes that humans or robots cannot accomplish on their own.

Project Room 1
Practitioners/performers:
Charles Anderson and Jondi Keane
Real-time robotics programming and design: RMIT Architectural Robotics Lab

Project Room 2
Curated by Charles Anderson with works by Charles Anderson, Jane Burry, Kristof Crolla, Gwyllim Jahn, Jondi Keane, Casey Reas, Tim Schork and Roland Snooks.
Co-curated for Design Hub by Fleur Watson, Kate Rhodes, Nella Themelios

Graphic Design by Sean Hogan, Trampoline

The artists and curators would like to acknowledge the generous support provided by the RMIT School of Architecture & Design, the RMIT Landscape Architecture Program and the RMIT School Research Committee.