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Publisher's note

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Is an Watson's 1969 short story, Supertoys Last All Summer Long, was made into a film called A.I by Steven Spielberg in 2001. I still remember watching that movie and thinking about how computers and technology will soon become more humanised, but does this make our lives better or worse?

This is the basis of debate and exploration in this issue of SIGNED. When machines and man become intertwined, as they do now, do we assign human emotions to them - are they entitled to the same rights as humans? This discussion will go on forever, as we move more towards a life assisted by and shared with technology.

How does it work in a small but significant way? Let's start with our exhibition Homo Ex Data, an encapsulation of some of the most amazing gadgets we have developed to enhance our lives. These innovations are all recognised by the Red Dot Awards, the accolade which is given to good design for living. SIGNED also engaged two great thinkers, the designer Michael Young and neuroscientist Rosa Chan, in debating the relationship between technology and humanity and how to harness this power responsibly.

Back on campus, we speak with a group of outstanding students in design who have won the DFA awards. It is amazing that these young minds have opened up to the benefits of exchange programmes with overseas institutions, and the inspiration they brought back is already making an impact on the way they think and work.

Finally, we take a break from looking towards the future and celebrate the past - with an article on the centenary of the Bauhaus design school.

If there is something to be said about the future of humanity and technology, it is that no matter how blurred the line will become, design endeavours which enrich our emotions will always prevail. It may be my humble opinion, but I am hopeful for humans.

Desiree Au
Publisher