

# ***Æstetisk Seminar***

*Æstetisk Seminar er tilrettelagt af AIIM – Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images*

## **Marie Dias**

### **Visualizing War in Digital Images Art as a Diagnostic of Perception and Affective Mediation**

Contemporary war is not only fought in images but through them. Images act as operative agents, shaping how war is sensed, known, and desired. This talk uses three case studies to examine how artworks function as probes into these operations, revealing the affective, sensory, and technological infrastructures of contemporary warfare.

The first case – a YouTube video of a press conference at the bombed Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza – examines the politics of ‘truth’ in war images, where pixelated or improvised ‘snapshots’ are perceived as authentic while staged “scenographies of war” provoke skepticism (Baudrillard, Sjöholm, Didi-Huberman). The second, drawing on Thomas Hirschhorn’s *Pixel-Collage* and Ilkin Huseynov’s AI work *Looming Dreams*, addresses sensory experience, showing how “hyper-aesthetics” and “hyperaesthesia” (Fuller & Weizman) produce aesthetic ambiguity as perception oscillates between coherence and breakdown. Lastly, Noura Tafeche and Tobia Paolo’s videowork *MICCHAN*, confronts the gendered and algorithmic dimensions of war, exposing how Israeli MilTok influencers weaponize cuteness and empowerment as soft-power tool functioning as “operational images” (Parikka).

Together, these cases show how war images are not only seen but inhabited, shaping perception, desire, and intimacy. Mediation transforms the perceptual and affective terrain of war through visual formats, sensory oscillations, and platform-specific performances. Understanding contemporary war thus requires mapping its media ecologies as well as political and military strategies, within which art becomes a diagnostic tool, exposing how images operate as agents of aesthetic warfare.

**Torsdag den 30. oktober 2025, Kl. 14:15-16:00**

**Kasernen, bygning 1584, lokale 112**

Alle er velkomne/All are welcome