

## Do you think the robot is lonely at night?

### *Possible futures of social robots in elderly care facilities*

A collection of texts compiled by residents, healthcare workers, robot researchers and writers.

### *What will the care for people with dementia look like in the future if social robots are given a serious role?*

Using imagination, the writers in this collection make it conceivable and insightful what this would mean for people with dementia, for the healthcare workers involved, for the immediate environment and for technicians.

At the same time, the texts show what impact social robots can have on the organisation of healthcare. But first and foremost, the collection is about meaningful interaction and quality of life: do you think the robot is lonely at night?

Writers worked together with older people with dementia, healthcare workers and robot researchers to put the possible futures on paper.

This publication arises from the project *Robot stories: Speculative scenarios for social robots in healthcare*. HKU, Wintertuin, ArtEZ and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam are working together with writers and healthcare institutions on story packages for social care robots.

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In the autumn of 2023, Renske de Ruiter (information manager and coordinating nursing division of Cared Living, AxionContinu), Noortje Kessels (program maker Wintertuin) and Nirav Christophe (theatre writer and lecturer in Frontier Artistic Practices HKU) formed an editorial team to select the most interesting and most appealing texts from the project *Robot stories: Speculative scenarios for social robots in healthcare*. Together with Jorrit Thijn (researcher of social artificial intelligence & writer/theatre maker), Frank Tazelaar (director of Wintertuin and head of the Creative Writing course (ArtEZ), and Mike Ligthart (robot researcher VU) they wrote the accompanying texts for the stories. Klaas Jan Bolt designed in



collaboration with Midjourney the accompanying illustrations. After the final editing by Loes Raats, the designer Anton Feddema brought it all together and 400 copies were printed by Printconsultancy. 200 copies were distributed among healthcare employees of AxionContinu (Utrecht), 50 copies among healthcare employees of Vitalis WoonZorg Groep (Eindhoven). The consortium partners distributed 20 copies each within their network, and all the writers and participants involved received a couple of copies.

The healthcare workers responded very enthusiastically to the booklet. One of them wrote to Renske de Ruiters: 'I have read the book: fantastic! At first with mixed feelings, but it has given me a different view on the possible use of this in the future for people living with dementia. How wonderful that you were able to give your contribution and your vision in this way in the form of this collection. Beautiful!'

