Showcase 4a

Post-human: AI, androids and cyborgs



Key transformations for the development of a 'good Anthropocene' have suggested that increased multispecies understanding, dissolving boundaries between humans, animals and machines, can allow for new possibilities of connection and association. This encourages diverse multiplicities of ideas and debunks anthropocentric delusions of grandeur. Our cyborg descendants emerging from the womb of the Anthropocene may be the intelligent technological life forms that will ensure the survival of the planet, rather than the mere survival of organic organisms.

Finding a sapient and sentient counterpart has been on human beings' to-do list ever since their self-realisation as intelligent beings. Attempts to find companions in the non-human world was limited by their inability to teach other animals to speak. Next they turned their eyes to extra-terrestrial cosmic neighbours, who have not so far responded. The burning desire to find an intelligent companion has driven human beings to create artificial beings that are able to work for them, play with them, and most importantly, understand them.

How can we communicate with different species, other worlds, and alternative universes?

The anthropotechnology of transhuman augmentation, Artificial Intelligence, and the creation of androids, peoploids, and cyborgs, however, is prone to misuse and abuse. When human beings have found an intelligent counterpart, and an understanding companion; moral, ethical and technical concerns also grow. As artificial beings become more agile, intelligent, and competent than their creators, they challenge the exceptionalism of human beings. In a foreseeable post-human future, the familiar social order of the human world will need to be rebalanced with the rise of a new dominant species and the decline of old ones. Increasing human obsolescence and advocacy for AI rights will inevitably establish a new order between themselves and humans.

What happens when the creatures become equal, if not superior to their creators?

Objects of the

A Time-Travelling Exhibition from the Illegal Museum of Beyond

Misanthropocene

Free Exhibition

Institute of Archaeology & Slade School of Fine Art

