

PRESS RELEASE

from creatures to creators

Saelia Aparicio, Samara Daioub & Zion König,
Ed Fornieles, Pakui Hardware, Alfred Kubin,
Mary Maggic, Bernard Picart, Tabita Rezaire,
Amalia Ulman, Emmanuel Van der Auwera,
Steffen Zillig

KUNSTHAUS HAMBURG

24 July – 19 September 2021

Press preview

Friday, 23 July 2021, 11 am

Opening

Friday, 23 July 2021, 4 – 9 pm

*“I’m not afraid of death. I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”
(Woody Allen)*

Death has recently come disturbingly close. Inevitably, as a result of the global pandemic, everyone is somehow confronted with mortality. However, it is not only because of the current situation that the desire for a long life has taken on a completely new meaning. Described and symbolically illustrated in many cultures since ancient times, a fundamental goal once was immortality in the hereafter. Today, immortality is to become reality in this world.

Through the paradigm of science, death is no longer a divine decree, but rather a technical challenge. According to the latest findings of biogerontologists, the life span can already be extremely extended with the help of the right tools. There are, for example, “biohackers” who are researching ways to intervene in the human organism to improve its performance, optimize the body or manipulate the DNA. Transhumanists likewise are increasingly seeking to overcome biological limitations through technological solutions. Inevitably, the question arises whether the development of an artificial intelligence (AI) on a par with humans does not actually mean the end of Homo sapiens.

The exhibition *from creatures to creators* explores concepts of humanity with regard to our future subsistence. It assembles international artists who, from multiple angles, shed a light on ways of dealing with our human existence, including future conceptions of it, and also dare to conjure visions going beyond the finite, conceiving the superhuman.

Saelia Aparicio is realizing a large-scale mural drawing for the Kunsthaus Hamburg. Inspired by comics and cartoons, she creates hybrid body images that blur the boundaries between what is human, animal or plant. The notion of transcending corporeal reality is also at the centre of **Pakui Hardware's** work, whose sculptures are reminiscent of organs and complex organisms. While **Tabita Rezaire** seeks to unite the dualism of female/male, good/evil, life/death in her works, **Steffen Zillig** develops a science-fiction scenario of the search for ancestors in a new series of collaged picture stories based on the ongoing trend of genetic and identity research. In their video installations, **Emmanuel Van der Auwera** and **Ed Fornieles** allude to our insatiable attention economy through the use of personal and public masses of data. Like **Fornieles**, **Mary Maggic** is also concerned with the issue of "biohacking", where the body and mind are interpreted as a system to be understood, utilized and controlled. **Samara Daioub & Zion König** are presenting a new work at the Kunsthaus Hamburg which, in turn, critically questions ideals of beauty by means of virtual reality.

Spanning installations, sculptures, murals and video works, the exhibition thus combines a wide range of artistic approaches, negotiating complex subject matter such as invisible lines of molecular (bio)power, processes of self-optimization, spiritual healing and the prospect of eternal life.

Curated by Anna Nowak

Accompanying programme

im-mortal

Interdisciplinary series of lectures

Guided tours

Tuesday, 10 August 2021, 6 pm

Tuesday, 31 August 2021, 6 pm

Sunday, 19 September 2021, 4 pm

We will gladly provide you with press material upon request.

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