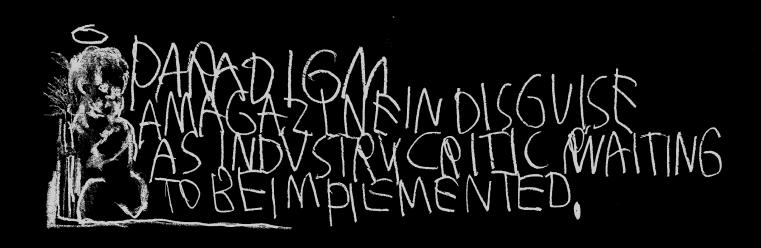
### Paradigm



II Man vs Machine

### HOW CAN A CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF CULTURAL PRODUCTION TAKE SHAPE?



## Mother

In search of the face of the future, our cover is a sculpture of Paloma Elsesser's face. Set in stone – the original hard drive. 3-D scanned, for eternity.

sculpture Hamzat Raheem concept Katharina Korbjuhn photography Theo Liu styling Haley Wollens casting Shawn Dezan look Claire Sullivan space Jacqueline Sullivan Gallery thank you Currie Richie & Sarah Chekfa











What is the face of the future? Who gives us hope? Who has a plan? We need new visionaries, new leaders, and new mantras.

The answer may lie in the absence of outlier individuals and the rise of the collective. Maybe the future has no face.

Maybe it's a genderless grey baby or technology referred to as the motherboard in sci-fi movies. But till then, it's got to be PALOMA.

Ceramics - Jordan McDonald Interior Design & Sconce - Nick Poe Floral Lamp - Cini Boeri for Artemide PARADIGM MAN VS MACHINE

# Man vs Machine

HOW WILL TECHNOLOGY INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY?

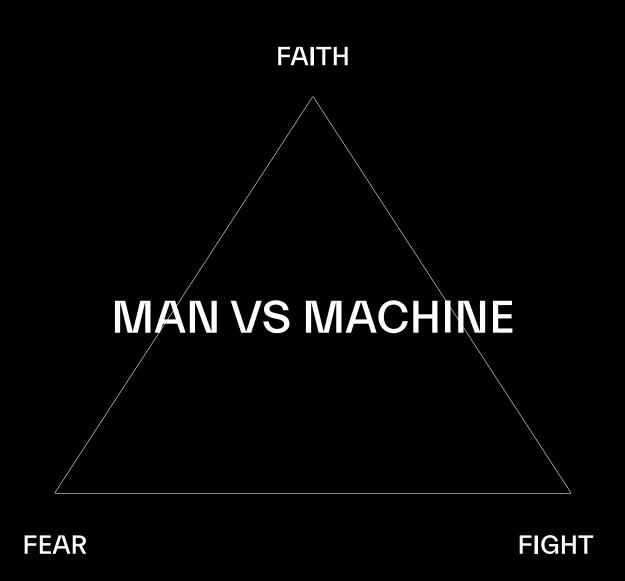
TEXT: Katharina Korbjuhn, Kay Kasparhauser, Nelya Rosa, Alexander Dexter-Jones Artwork: Kyle Keese PARADIGM MAN VS MACHINE

We don't want to get into the futile debate of whether or not the machine will replace us. If, or when, have no relevance here.

Our life with the machine is now. We want to shine a light on the machine, not as something we use but something that uses us; in the same way that an ax cutting wood requires our muscles to work, our hands to bruise.

The attention economy stole our ability to see beyond the moment, see the arch narrative behind the click. Whether we feel comfortable envisioning a future of superhumans and cyborgs or wish for a return and dismantling of technological progress in favor of the survival of our race, we must understand that decisions are being made now. Those able to see the bigger picture will be part of that decision in the making every day.

Wake up, user. You've been drunk for a while.



PARADIGM MAN VS MACHINE

### fear

Your taste? Predictable
Your moods? Changeable
Your identity? Hackable

PARADIGM MAN VS MACHIN

### fight

If you feel that staying human is worthwile... you've beaten them.

### faith

God grant me the SEREINITY to accept the things I cannot change; COURAGE to change the things I can; WISDOM to know the difference

### **ALGORITHM CREATIVITY**

Can creativity be automated? Will the next season of The White Lotus be better left to the hands of an AI-spinning Season 3 off of 1 and 2? Siri, who is the young version of Jennifer Coolidge? Pre-Dalle Mini, you might have thought less about it, but below the surface, you know you're nothing but a factory content worker in the Instagram likes hamster wheel and its insatiable appetite for MORE. Quality got replaced by visibility. And visibility is in the hands of the Algorithm. #Shadowbanned. Cultural production turned content creation in capitalist society can be fully automated; doesn't need the human "spirit." It's a matter of staying informed by scrolling down the feed. So what on earth makes you think AI will only touch physical jobs? Isn't intellectual property a much more vulnerable set of data without craft? What is the value of an idea in this context when it seems that our true power lies in "intention."

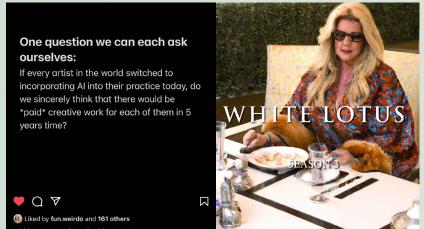




LOUIS VUITTON



CAMPAIGN = BRAND DNA + CURPENT AFFAIRS + PHOTO GRAPHER, LIGHT, & SUBJECT + SOCIAL MEDIA DATA ANALYTICS



An Al-Generated editorial exploring Artificial Creativity using the Schiaparelli Archive. *Humans involved* served as curatorial tools *operating* the machine.

### NACHINE

MACHINE Loretta Fahrenholz

AI ASSISTANCE Jak Ritger

DATASET Schiaparelli Archive

TEXT Loretta and Jak

MUSIC Debit

SYSTEMS USED Midjourney,
DALL-E, Jacob Broms Engblom,
Image Synthesis System, Neural Blender,
Rhea Blend, Kronos Blend, ESRGAN



PARADIGM
MACHINE

Salvador gave simple notes to designer Elsa Schiaparelli who then transferred them into textures, silhouettes, and scents. The Surrealist practice of "Automatic Writing" was embodied through this collaboration.

Dalí wrote, "Dear Elsa, I like this idea of 'bones on the outside' enormously..." which then became Schiaparelli's famous Skeleton Dress.

The Combination Game was set in motion, gestating just below the surface of consciousness.

### Did you know that DALL: E derrives its name from Salvador Dali?

Here, eight image GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks) reproduce traces of Elsa's vision. Descriptions of perfumes, outfits, iconic looks, and ad copy were given as prompts for text-to-image generators. These outputs merge with archival materials of Schiaparelli's designs used as datasets to train new Al image models and fed into an image synthesis program filling the background.

The artist is algorithm, the art is passed on, the machine is a mirror of history, re-shaping through time autonomously.



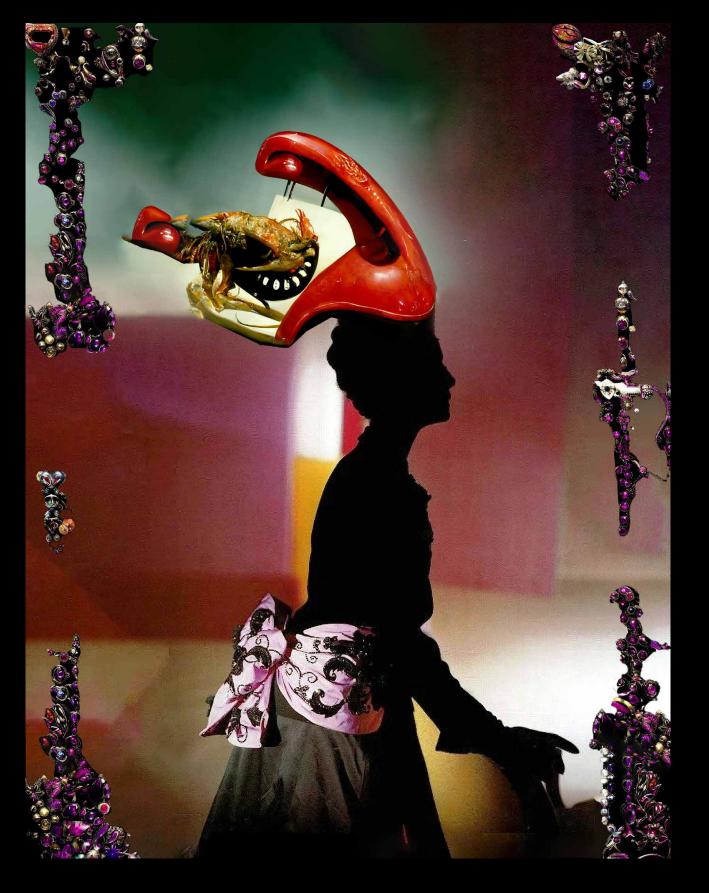












### FROM RESEARCH TO THE FINAL IMAGE

### CAROLINE BUSTA: REFLEX EFFECTS —SURVEILLANCE AND THE REFLECTIVE SUBJECT IN THE FILMS OF LORETTA FAHRENHOLZ

93% of all crimes are crimes of vanity.

—Irmgard Keun

Danton speaks: "Your eyes work the same way mine do, you cunt." The revolutionary Danton, charged with corruption, has been sentenced to death by Robespierre without trial or the possibility of offering words of self-defense. Or at least such is the case in *Implosion*—both Loretta Fahrenholz's 2011 film and its tongue-in-cheek referent, the 1983 Kathy Acker script, which stages the French Revolution in the bohemia of a newly post-Fordist NYC. In an earlier scene, Danton's fate is foreshadowed by the character My Grandmother, who, asking his whereabouts, interrupts herself, almost as if to answer her own question: "Fiction."

In Fahrenholz's frame, Danton and Robespierre volley lines of subjectification. Danton's words are a response to being asked what he sees: "Your eyes work the



### Concept:

The first fashion editorial conceived and executed by Al. Exploring the creativity of the machine, using text and image creating Al and the image archive of the French couture house Schiaparelli. We are just operating the machine, no thoughts allowed.

1. Key-Word Direction

\_

Al script & story generator e.g. Deepstory Al

GIRL GETS BITTEN BY A DOG IN AN ALAIA DRESS

alice doesn't know what she's doing when she swings her middle finger back and forth! She points her middle finger at. The building, building/studio women wipe out doing handstands with a piece of food in their hands, chicken, peaches, spaghetti. The girls each try a choreography. girl kicks a tree, girl twirls the club chair, girl does a gymmastice pose, dance. Alice's bionic arm club chair, girl does a gymmastice pose, dance. Alice's bionic arm compared to the state of the state of the state of the state of the crump. The state of the state of the state of the state of the crump. The state of the chest with a leg, her bionic arm does a spin in the air. The club chair twirls and falls over, the women line up for a pyramid. Girl does cartwheels on the club chair 2. Story gets fed into

>

Al image from text creator

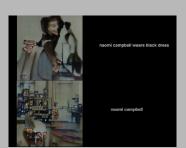
+ Schiaparelli Archive

e.g. DALLE, GAN, Neuralblender

Let's blend some art

Ask the AI anythin

Naomi campbell bitten by dog in Schiaparelli dress



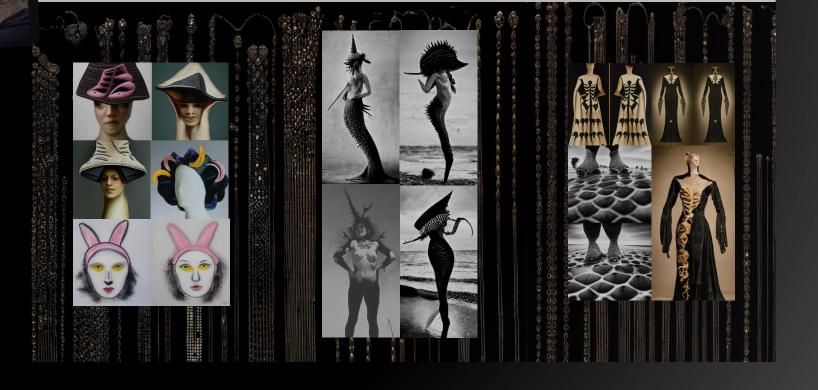
3. Composition of

>

image creations, edited together to create final images



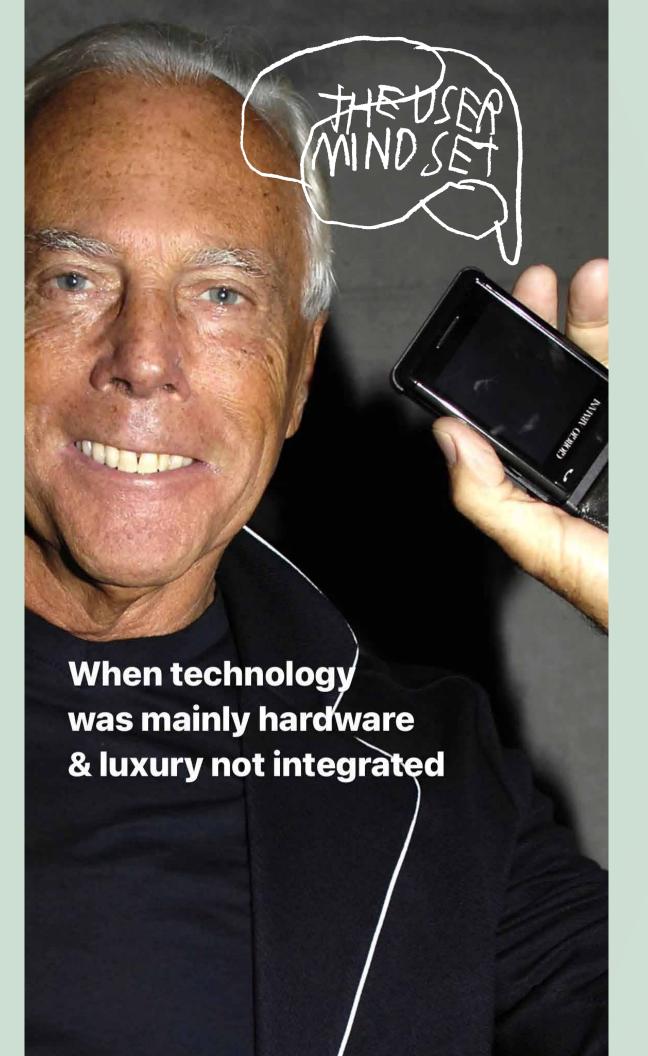


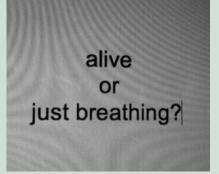


### THE USER MINDSET

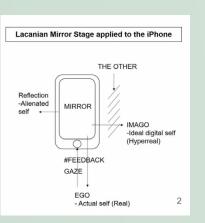
Your Mac crashes, and you click, swipe, tap an appointment at Genius Bar. Dual-processor? Motherboard? Gigabits? All you know is that your Mac is grey, and lately, it has a vulnerable touch bar. There was a time when in order to use technology, you had to understand it. 'Geeks' with the necessary knowledge interacted with hardware. That changed. In the new world, user-friendly software hid clunky mechanic prompts under a seamless experience. Apple is the poster child of this change. But there is a trade-off. When you can't understand a system, you can't influence or question it. This is the user mindset, a pathologic state in which we favor convenience over knowledge or autonomy. Every time the software updates, you re-sign the constitution/contract/ treaty. In a digital world, operating systems are political systems. Your purchase is your vote. The user mindset is a universal cultural condition that takes us out of world-building mode and replaces it with conformity. Settings became System Preferences, and true hardware innovations took a backseat to yet another system update.

CONVENIENCE WILL MILL YOU



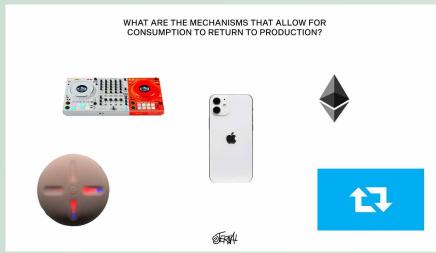


Scientist Makes Phone for Her Dog, Dog Never Answers





"We believe the metaverse will be the successor to the mobile internet, we'll be able to feel present - like we're right there with people no matter how far apart we actually are," he said.

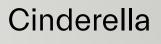




### What future do you crave?

Take the Test

### Which Disney Princess are you?



Sleeping Beauty

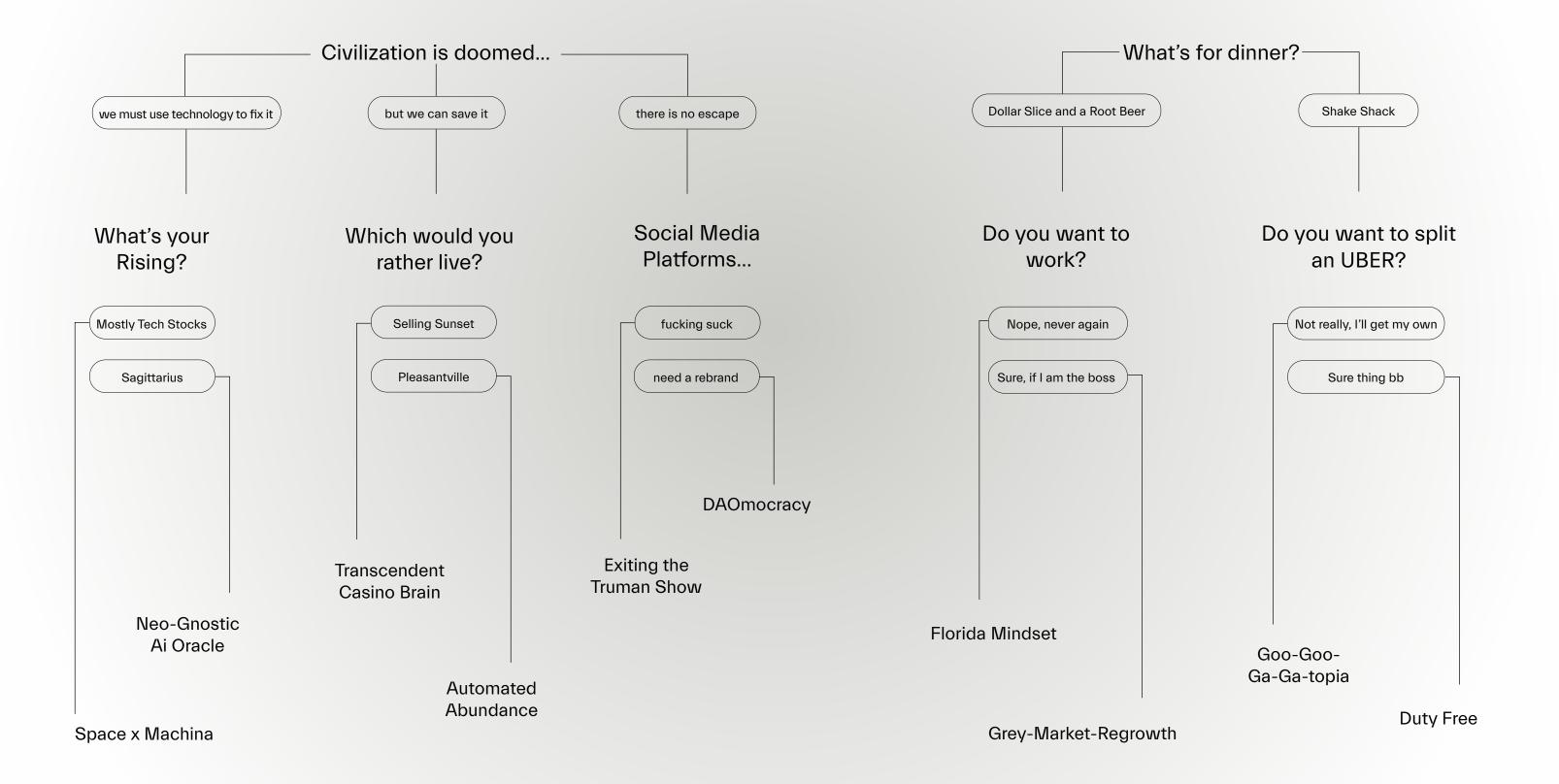
Pocahontas

Elsa



### Your answer was POCAHONTAS or SLEEPING BEAUTY

### Your answer was CINDARELLA or ELSA



Go to your result!

### Goo-Goo-Ga-Ga-topia

I'm baby. Button-up-the-back jumper in the club. Let Siri, Echo & Alexa take care of it. Blissful ignorance, auto-pilot nihilism, or is it a new post-human positivism? Maybe the Gray-Goo\* will convert all organic matter into nano-bots, but I reserve the right to not give a shit because my virtual assistants tell me I'm perfect. Utopia is drop-shipped via loot-crates subscription services I forgot I signed up for. Accept all Cookies,

\*A doomsday scenario: nano-bots with the ability to reproduce end up metabolizing all organic matter and blanketing the earth with

lesss go.

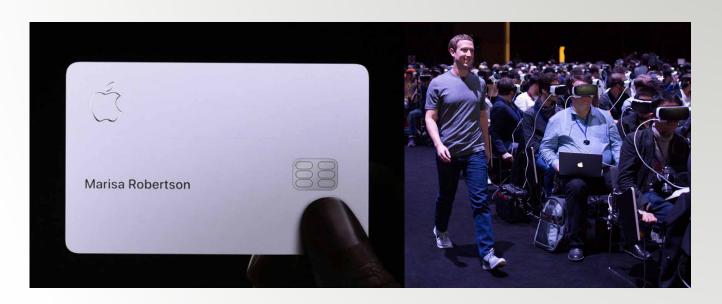
### The Florida Mindset

Retiring before you started. Low effort passive income and a humble beach shack is the post-ambition, anti-American dream. Florida's retirement community on the edge of climate catastrophe becomes a model for the first and final destination in a society approaching Post-Work. Whereas today's FIREs (Financial Independence, Retire Early) built a lifestyle around get-rich-quick schemes, tomorrow's Florida Mindset will be set to cruise control. A release from hustle culture grind set. Your sheer existence is all you've ever needed.



### **DAOmocracy**

Amazon is railroad, Google is healthcare, Apple is our bank. Big Tech is your government. Here's your Apple Passport. Digital citizenship already exists. But as climate collapse deepens the market tanks, and the feudal tech entities are vastly devalued. During this moment of uncertainty, a DAO forms and buys everyone out. This "Decentralized Autonomous Organization," a collective of millions, takes over control of digital governance and steers towards egalitarian survival. The DAO Staff T-Shirt becomes the icon of the new digital communalism. The transparency we are owed is finally granted.



### **Grey-Market Re-Growth**

I love dark academia. My argyle sweater is spun from wool from a retired container ship turned floating sheep farm. Everything that is old is new again, but instead of circulating capital, we are building informal underground economies. A mesh network of artisans, producers and thinkers connect through open source platform collectives. The utility vest with lots of pockets is a symbol of interdependence: perfect for lending a tool or an algae protein-bar to a fellow traveller. Scoff at Global-Techno-Capitalisms self-cannibalization. Pre-consumer trade that runs under the radar of imperial capitalism.

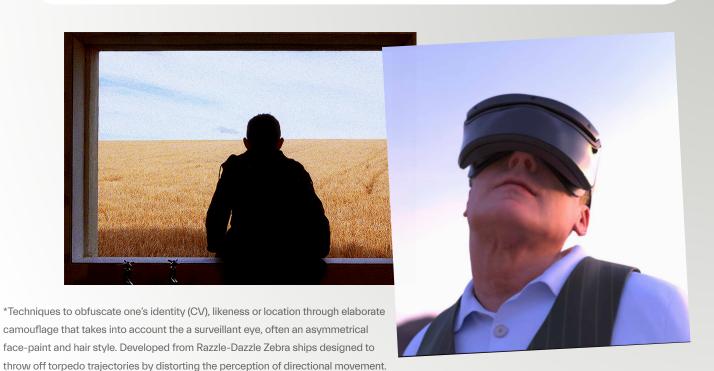


### **Exiting the Truman Show**

Seeking refuge in our private cloud; Tranquility lies beyond the firewall.

Noise canceling headphones, blue light blocking apps. We are still connected but shielded. An up-cycled Army Jacket is the ideal uniform for protection against the spectacle. Embroider over the logos to blur brand allegiances. Flowing rave pants or patterned dresses obscure your stride from computer vision gait detection. Rock an N95 for CV-dazzle\*.

Welcome to the anti-selfie, never face-dox, and please don't post your kids until they are old enough to choose their own angles.



### Neo-Gnostic\* Ai-Oracle

in a water tank set at optimal temperature and can be connected to alternate bodies - animated beings. We can live forever if we want to.

Virtual immortal enlightenment is a devirtualization\*\* of the Digi-dual experience. The planet-scale hivemind produces an Ai-Oracle capable of projecting a perfect image of the world. Shear sweats are the uniform of the digital frontier. Claim your avatar and seize your node in the spiritual network today!



### **Transcendent Casino-Brain**

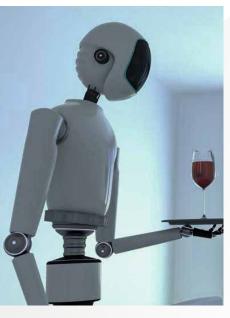
No acts of faith, no helping hands. Tokenize everything. The blockchain is a virtual game-clock that affords us new freedom from morality. All on-chain, liquid or concrete. All human action is predefined as transaction, freeing ourselves from the moral burden to be a good person. Or a person entirely. When I look at clothing, cars or people I only see stunning tapestry of QR codes for the taking. My hoodie and jeans are laced with iconography that is accruing value. Let's scan each other's destinies and let the chips fall where they may.



### **Automated Abundance**

Everyone can have everything. 3d Printing + automated assembly shipping lines will meet the needs of every person on the planet without the need for human labor. The Al revolution will out-mode inequality. This is not some pie-in-the-sky TED Talk, it can actually happen in our lifetimes. Distribute the future evenly and ethically across the globe. Micro-produced laser-cut garments for lounging in Grass-brick biomimicry homes. Post-work will be a renaissance of art & poetry — it's Rococo grandeur but for the masses.





### Space X Machina

I want to drive my Cybertruck on Mars. Spaceship Earth is a launchpad for planet-steading\*. She has given us enough runway to develop into a Level-2 Civilization. Nuclear Fusion is the key. Soon we will be a multiplanet species, I want to be the first one out there. My carbon nanotube chainmail and UV-filter goggles will protect me on this next journey for humankind. The "Limits of Growth" can be overcome, we simply need to push technology to deliver a path beyond inequality and terrestrial politics.



\*The next logical step after "sea-steading" or creating new floating city-states in international waters. While sea-steading failed to sustain a society, with enough funding and belief, planet steading could work!

### **Duty-Free**

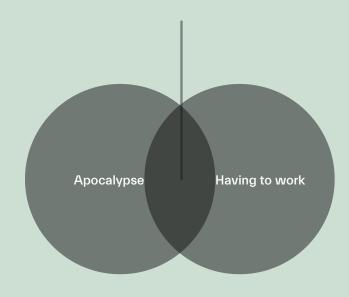
Storage space turnt public library. Everything is rented or shared. All being is in transit. Move fluidly through work, leisure, and travel, it all blends into one nomadic Soho House Membership. One massive atrium spanning the globe connected by train, flight, and ferry. Timezones are the only meaningful delineation. PR gifted long capes and hoods for comfort and privacy while recovering in liminal spaces. In a bathrobe at the sanctuary hotel pool is home. Everything is a work trip, but no one knows what you're working on.

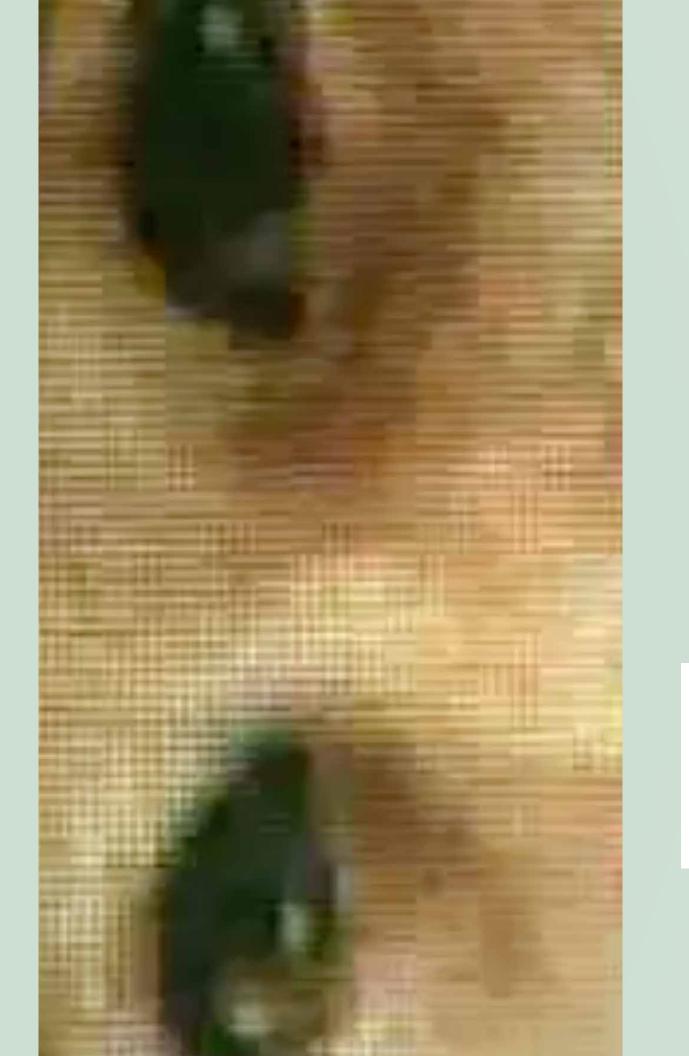


### **CALL OF DATA**

It's your civic duty to accrue data. Every move you make is money in the bank of someone else. Platforms seduce their users into performing unpaid work — uploading the texts, photographs, videos, and music that are the raw material of the digital world—while mining their metadata to create new markets for corporate and military surveillance. Adam Curtis' "Your real job is to shop" turned into "Your real job is to create data." Nowadays, we don't reject monetizable bits of content just because they don't have any artistic value.

### Somehow we ended up here







what if i die and they think im offline

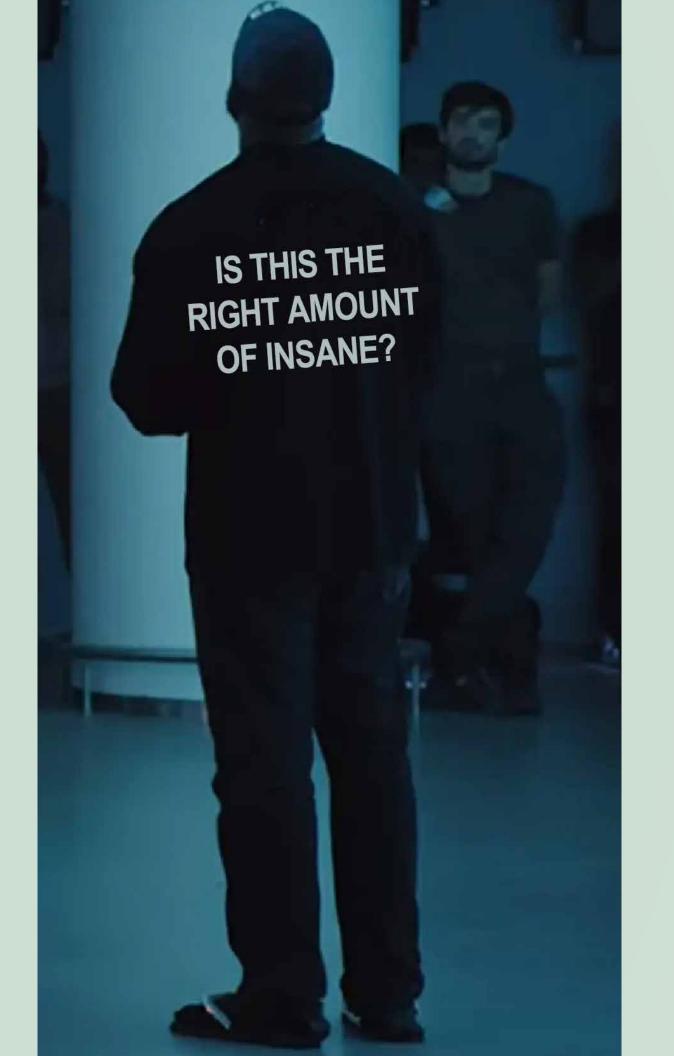
### IM A FUCKINI MACHINE



another long day in the screenshot factory. and my work is far from done.

### MONETIZABLE PATHOLOGY

I was at the 9/11 of fashion. I was at the YZY show during Paris Fashion Week in October 2022. It's great when you have a cultural moment that we can all agree on for the sake of collective sense-making. I compare it to 9/11 or maybe even better to the Insurrection because, at this very public moment, we witnessed something going wrong. How we as a collective have been living and enabling it under the surface. Culture shifted that day and left a blank space, not to the suppressed; It's the suppressed that we wish to never see out in the open. What are we about? What is art? What is our mission as artists who must admit to being part of an opinion-forming industry? With fashion brands turned institutions, along came the demand for political correctness, yet it has always been the job of fashion to amplify societal undercurrents and question conventions. So we're in a bit of a bind. Someone smart said to me: Look at sociopaths closely; they are the personification of the suppressed in society. The accumulation of our collective pathology. #MeToo, Fraudpreneurs like Sam Bankman-Fried & Elizabeth Holmes, Con artists like Anna Delvey, and Sociopaths like Jeffrey Dahmer. The begging question is all around us. Power is relational. The men we raise, the successes we praise are systemic. They are part of us. They are you. And the answer is not in their absence but in confronting their existence fully. We remove the symptoms. But the questions remain how will we fill the cultural blank, and what in us is making this happen?





CULTURE

The Defining Cultural Trope of 2022? Cannibalism

Vogue Approved



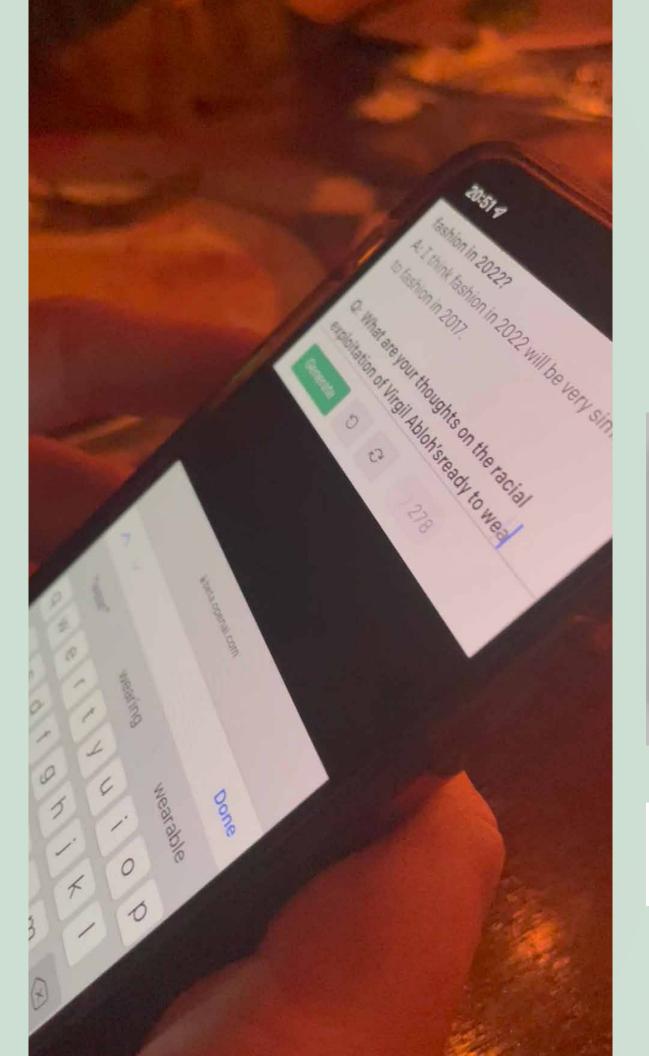
What's the war It-Bag, Lady Zelenska?



This could be us, if we would divest from notion of inidividual genius

# **DIGITAL AMNESIA / BUILT-IN-FORGETTING**

It popped up on your feed, and now it's gone. You don't remember the source, but you do remember who you shared it with. Al doesn't forget. It is, by its very nature, a constantly self-referencing archive. Forgetting is inherently human. It helps us to overcome pain by clearing certain information from our hard drives. But now we forget hard data. Swamped by the content industrial complex, we outsource knowledge to the Google Search engine. It's as if we became an empty container - Robert Musil's "Man without Qualities.", "a pastel futureless man, born anew at every instant. He exists in a certain freshness which seems, if I may so, very desirable." In mindfulness, we are told to attain happiness through complete presence in the moment. What happens if we know nothing anymore, if we forget language and how to turn on the oven? What if we all collectively forgot who we are and how we came to be? We'll be left with only the felt knowing, the unsayable thread embedded in our membrane long before birth. The thing not learned. The thing that AI can't remember. The eternal sunshine of the spotless mind, where only the soft skills will be remembered.



# craigslist

create a posting my account

### forget

83 "forget" in for sale

76 "forget" in services

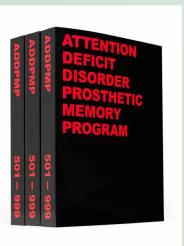
54 "forget" in housing

36 "forget" in jobs

4 "forget" in community

2 "forget" in resumes

1 "forget" in events



# Artificial Dementia Though aesthetically psychedelic, in practice it is little more than a broken nostalgia. It is not a form of artificial intelligence but artificial dementa. Artibeal intelligence is understood and appreciated through its capacity to learn. For the philosopher Gilles Deleuze, to learn "is first of all to consider a substance, an object, a being as if it emitted signs to be deciphered, interpreted." Machine leading is a form of learning by rote, which does yot encourage creative thinking or the generation of the new. For the human mind, its existence would be torturous, wholly encased in the cage of memory. Then again, what is life under late chapatalism if not precisely this? Before memory. Then again, what is life under late chapatalism if not precisely this? For the media theorist Regis Debray, learning is an induction into a succession of regimes of vision". It is to learn how to interpret the world and how you yourself are interpreted. But this must not "be confused with an inquiry into the per-predicative opin seeing." To truly see things, to hallucinate, is not to remember but to withstand the unrecognisable. Similarly, for jacquest Muncires, indexical semiotics "only serves to put the flesh of fantasy on the Romantic poeties of everything so, of truth engraved in the very body of things." But not all things do speak. Reality is hard, of truth engraved in the very body of things." But not all things do speak. Reality is hard, so further engraved in the very body of things." But not all things do speak. Reality is hard, so further engraved in the very body of things." But not all things do speak. Reality is hard, we ket to get inside the texture of Being, to delineate the miracle of sensed to forms of inquiry that "seek to get inside the texture of Being, to delineate the miracle of sensed to forms of inquiry that "seek to get inside the texture of Being, to delineate the miracle of sensed to forms of inquiry that "seek to get inside the texture of Being, to delineate the miracle of

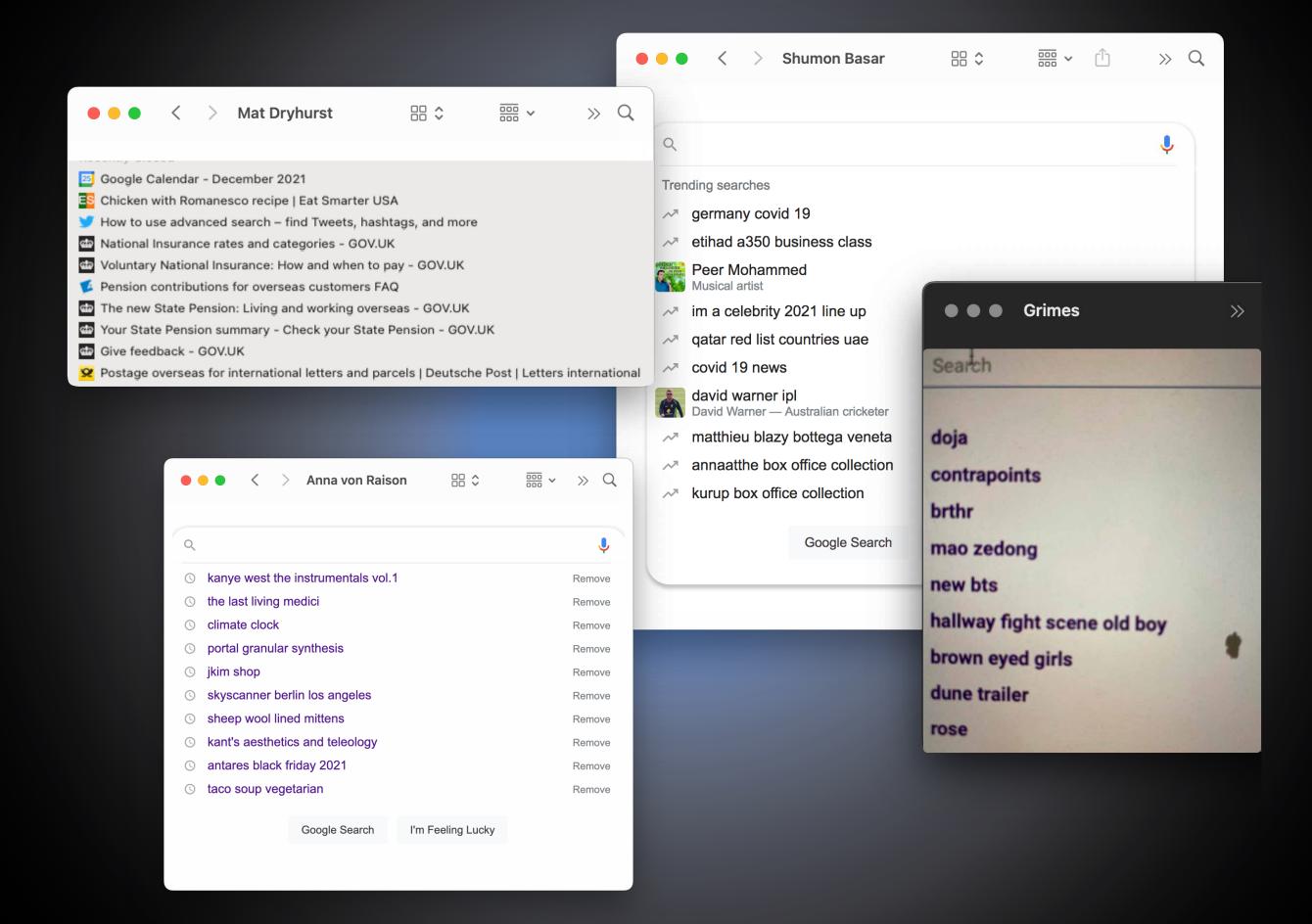
Forgetting is not a defect of a mental operation—although it can certainly be that. Forgetting *is* a mental operation, and it's almost as important as remembering.

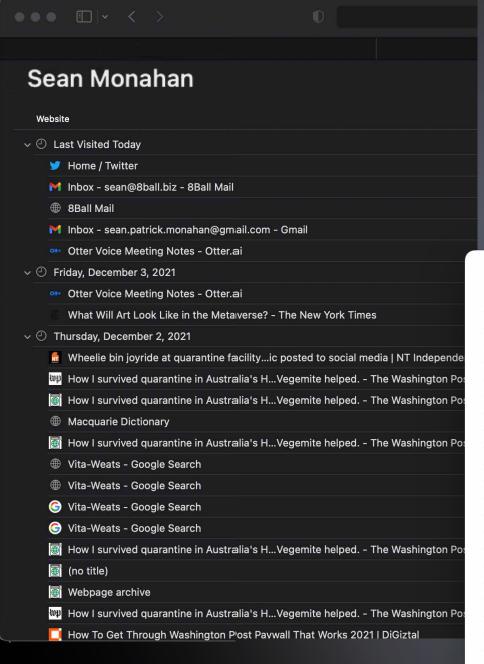
 Michael Pollan, "Cannabis, The Importance of Forgetting, and the Botany of Desire" Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha yeah
I didn't get that. Could you try again?

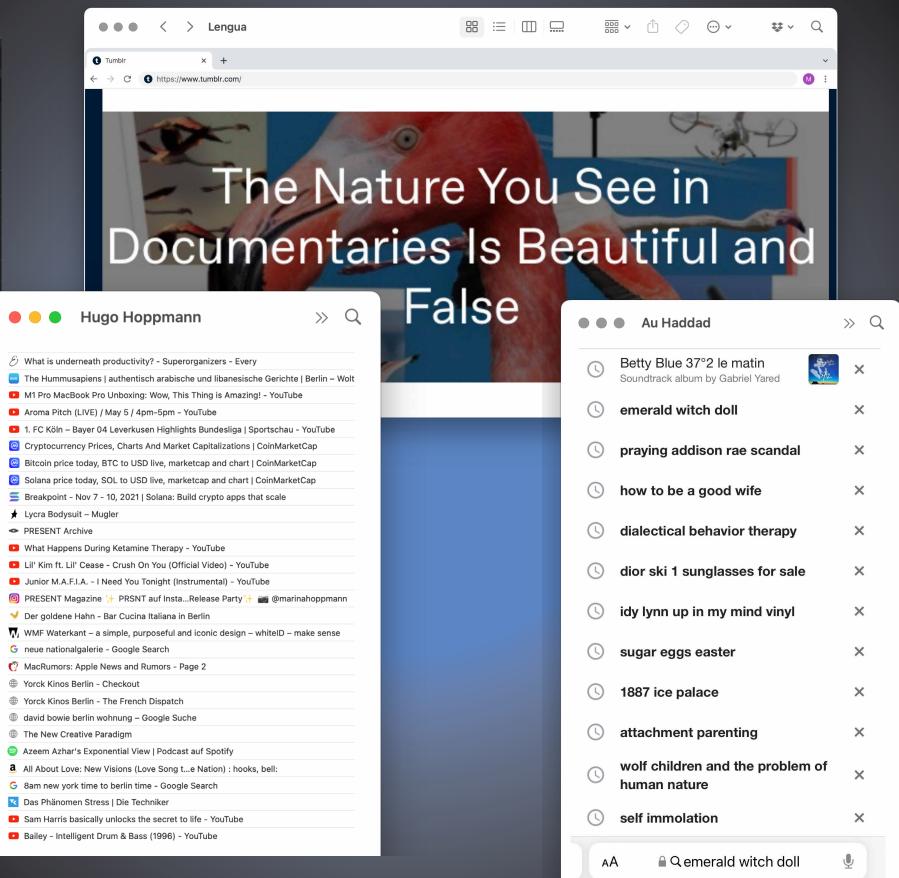
# The Open Tabs Interview

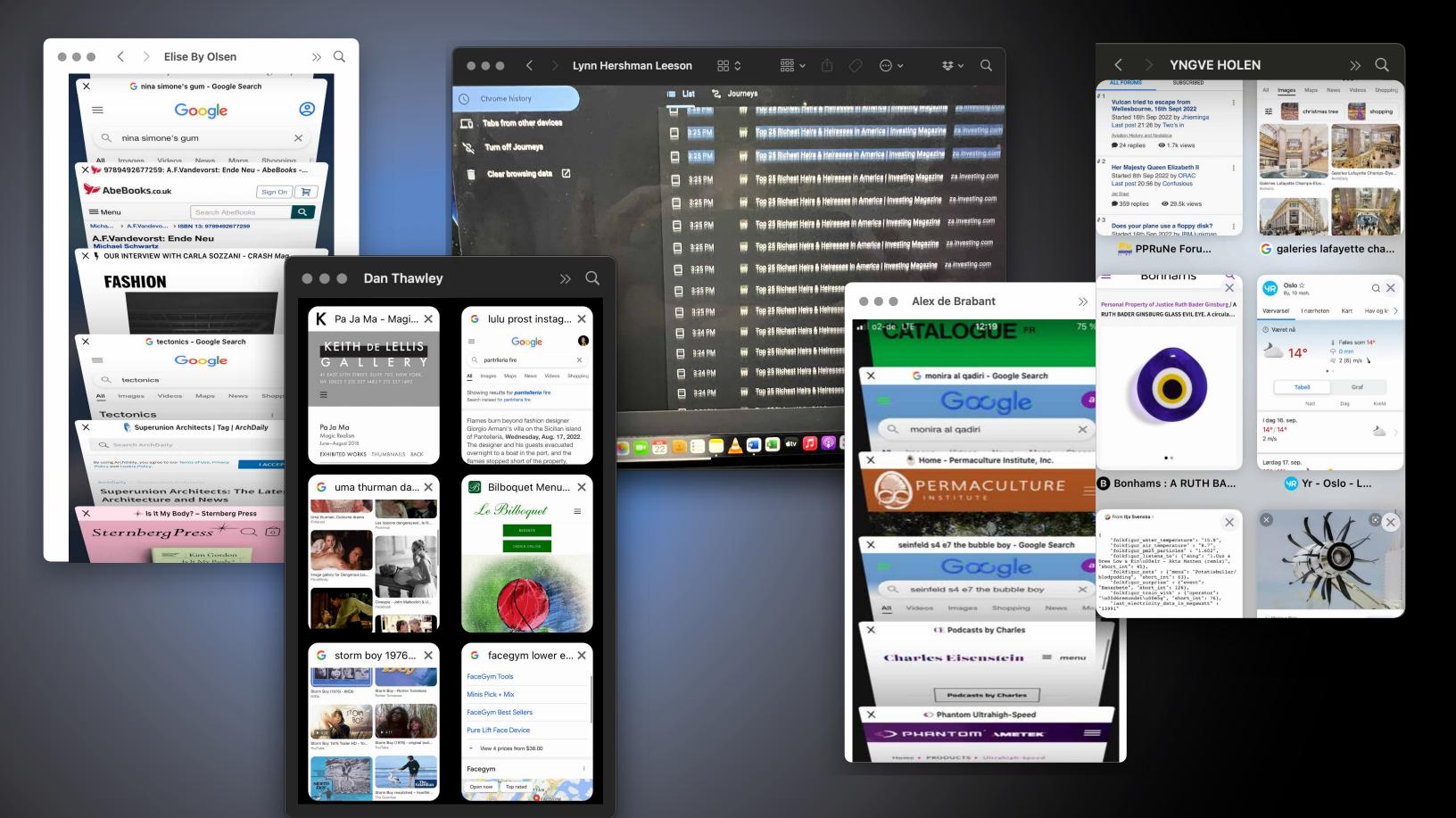
Creatives share their open tabs selfies.

Our Search History is the most direct data collection of our brain's infinite stream of consciousness. It will haunt us, stuff us with targeted ads, and we will have no memory of it.









## **CORPORATE CULTURE**

Never before have Culture and Money been so closely intertwined. Crypto is nothing but Culture. A currency based on a new collective identity. I am an anarchic pioneer. I have a wallet. "Sometimes everything has to change for everything to remain the same" is all we have to say on Web 3.0 and Crypto. Yet, I currently prefer to chat with my friends in finance about the state of Culture and drool over Jeremy Strongs' Patagucci fits in HBO's Succession. We need a Blackstone Balenciaga collab. Culture became a profit-driven industry and lost its key signifier - passion. What we label as Culture today is, at best, a nostalgia-ridden trope, artificially generated and controlled by market capitalism (marketing) or simply too irrelevant and fragmented to become a wave. In late capitalism, Culture is consumption, not conviction. But just like in Francis Fukuyama's "End of History," Culture will continue to go on even after its death. Human creativity is migrating, and it will be interesting to see if Al-created Culture will turn us into useless matter or rather valuable critics. With the necessary distance to look at what's being created when it's not coming directly from us. After all, what's worse than being oppressed? Not knowing that you are.

JOENTITY = CULTURE

CULTURE = MONEY

FINANCE BROS = CULTURAL

CREATORS?





Not Kendall rocking a LizWorks Rashid Johnson Necklace





IT'S CALLED PATAGUCCI



JOBS OF THE FUTURE



# Capitalist Clown (C-Suite) Salary: 2 NFTs / Week

The court jester is the voice of the kingdom. In this role, you will create the vibe at a product photoshoot via NTF radio playlists, good looks, and just being around. What is that community feeling? How can we surface it to key stakeholders? How can we coordinate the executive response with the rest of the team while you stay funny enough to keep your job?

Qualifications: A niche finsta. 10000h watched of "Nathan For You," "South Park," and "Curb your Enthusiasm."
A degree in post-ironic critique or an active member on the "Do Not Research" Discord Server. Extensive knowledge of the -cellectuals landscape or another related field.

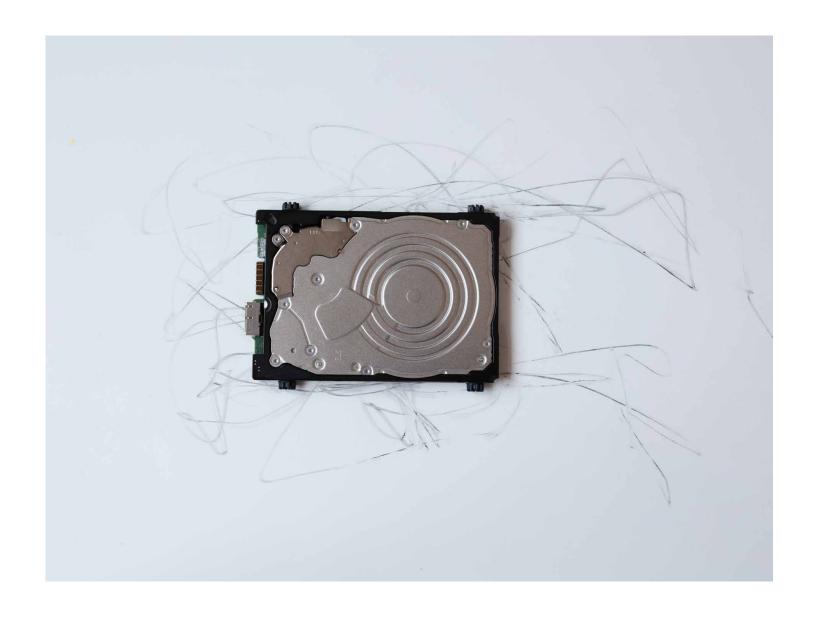
JOBS OF THE FUTURE



# 2nd Brain Salary: Determined By Your Subscription Rate

2nd Brains have a special place in our organization. For decades, those that are idea conduits fed the engines of managers and designers without compensation. Today, we are proud to subscribe to many 2nd Brains, formerly known as muses. Utilizing their elusive knowledge as core data playing ping pong on two processors. The vibe becomes data. We distill your elusiveness. Incorporating thoughts and feelings free from market capitalism back into the system. Not sure if you are a 2nd Brain? It's Virgil working for Kanye, Camille Claudel influencing Rodin. You are the content of our output. The Sedgwick to our Warhol.

Qualifications: You know the secret third thing before everyone else does. Have a 2nd Brain profile that we can review and subscribe to. PARADIGM JOBS OF THE FUTURE



# Al-Wrangling Engineer Salary: Determined By OpenAl Foundation

At corporation, we have AI performing core functions of our business. We have to actively work to keep machines and their outputs machine-like. In this role, you'll be in charge of engineering new machine-learning algorithms that mimic spontaneous emotions while remaining without conscience. Making sure LilMiquaela won't start posting herself. Placing Google LaMDA back into the realm of non-sentience. Keeping Emma the Sexbot from stealing your husband. Let's ensure the AI is not getting too good, but better not too bad either.

Qualifications: Minimum two DALL:E Mini artworks created. A dual degree in computer science + psychology. Proficient knowledge of Transcendental Meditation. Bonus: You are a close contact of Marianne Williamson.

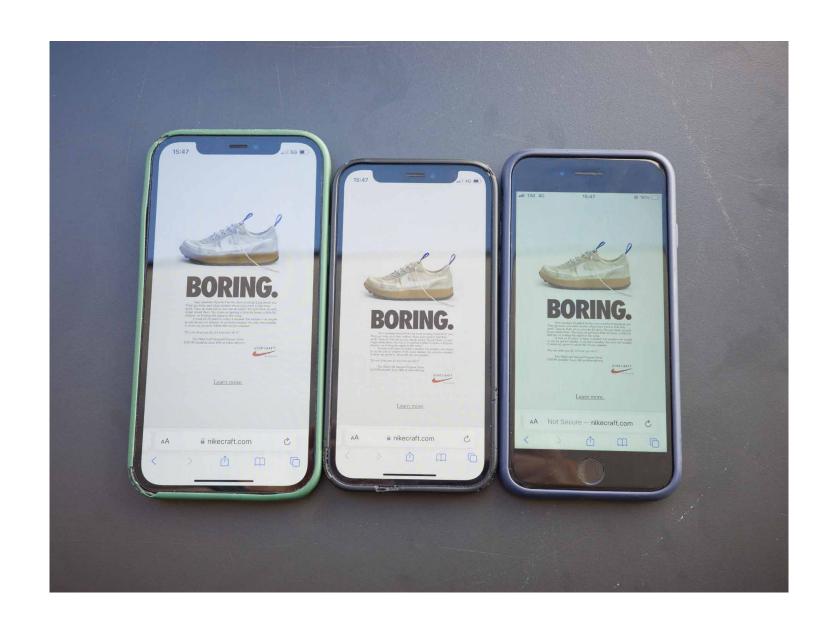
JOBS OF THE FUTURE



# Al-Interpretation Manager Salary: 1 Bitcoin 50 ETH / year

At corporation, our Al produces an abundance of imagery that becomes manufactured at a global scale. Before we ship finalized product, post-output editors add the touch only a human can. You will interpret the Al's intentions and ensure that its messaging is relatable to other humans. What is a good joke? What is politically correct today? Success lies in the grey zone before getting canceled. You are the human bridge with skin in the game, building a certified human™ future.

Qualifications: Proficient in Adobe Creative Suite. Socials with viral meme production or media placement. A healthy two-ring circle of platonic peer relationships. Moral flexibility. PARADIGM JOBS OF THE FUTURE

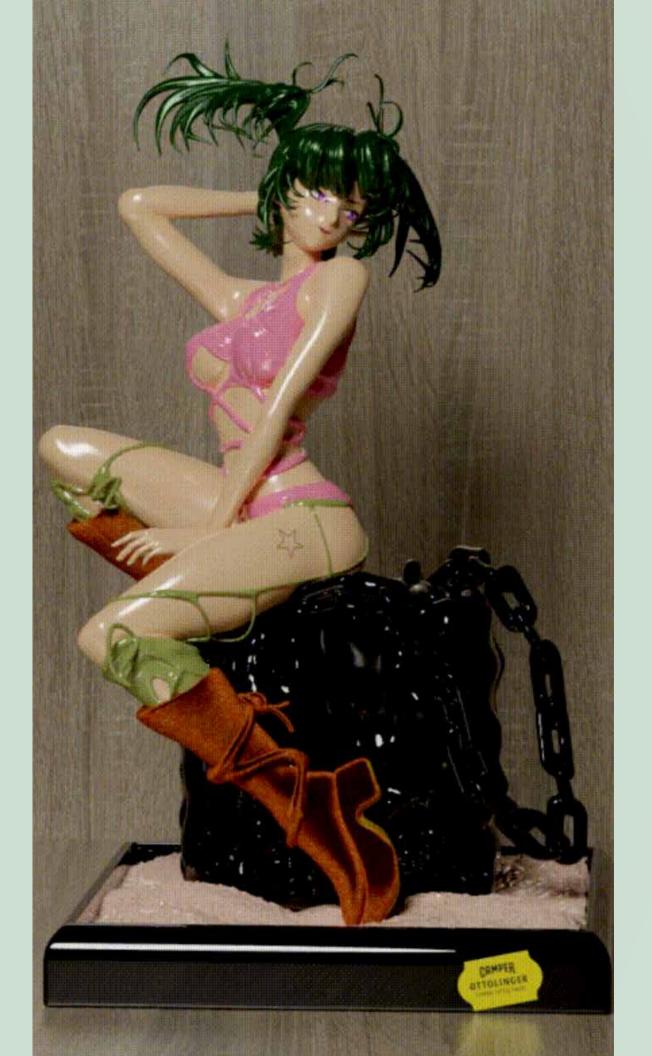


# **APPLY NOW!**

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# **AUTO-PILOT FICTION**

What to be and how to be in today's world. That's the crisis of the contemporary individual. How to make it out on top in a system that's kaput? Am I still a product? At the opening of the Mugler Exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, I run into familiar faces, but they're not the people I know. Life that night is a photo-opt, and everyone is a character. In the post-simulation state, we look for comfort in simulation. You can be as if you were. But we all know it isn't real. You're driving a Porsche, but your apartment doesn't have a window. The individual, crushed between soul and commodification, puts on a persona, dolled-up, fearless, speaking in soundbites at maximum volume. So much so that the drag queens attending the event fade into the background. What used to work now feels like defeat. The day after, the self wakes up hungover. Denied, negated, denial celebrated—the real hidden from a society that honors the fake. There is no resolve to true identity. The mode that was once productive, the one of the self as a product, is no longer. The state of culture: Ultimate pretense. Self-importance. Peak irrelevance. We need a system that doesn't rely on personas or performances and instead celebrates a person's genuine private self.



## BAUDRILLARD

fake is realer than real

IDENTITY

BENJAMIN

spirit can't be

reproduced

**GOFFMANN** 

everyone is acting

Stuck in the middle with you

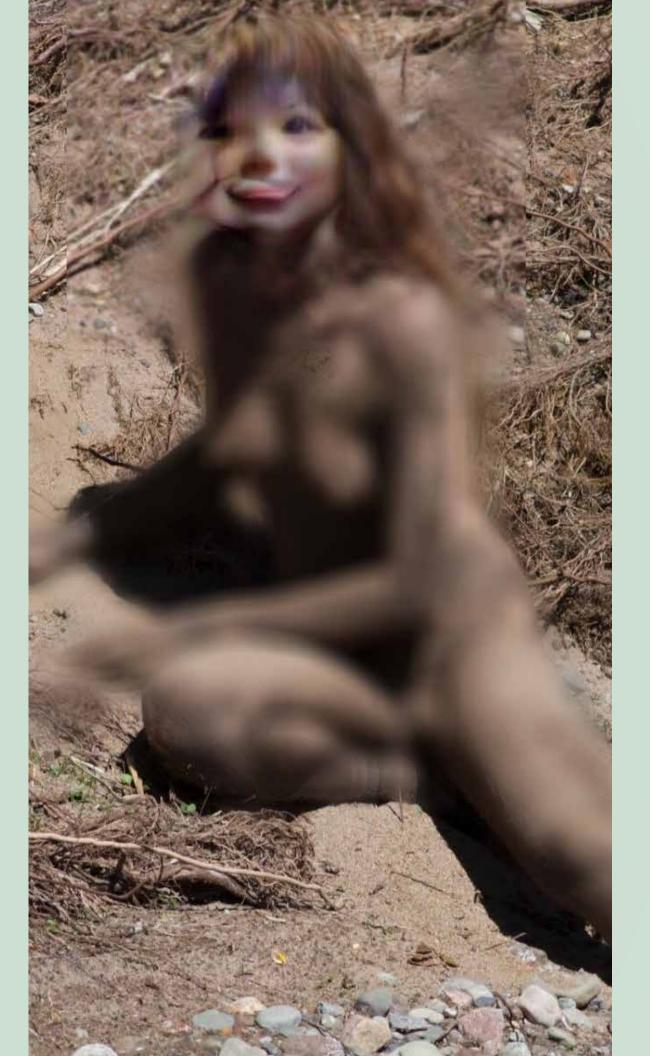
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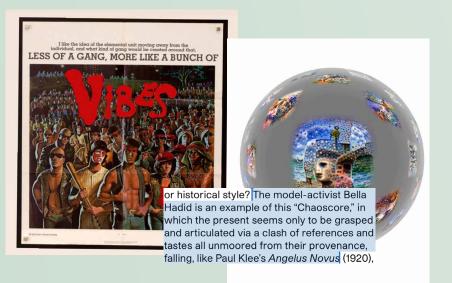
What's me post productivity?

# **POSTCORE**

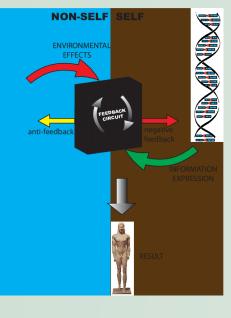
"In the face of the functional object, the human being becomes dysfunctional, irrational and subjective: an empty form, open to the mythology of the functional, to projected fantasies stemming from the stupefying efficiency of the outside world." Baudrillard.

I am the homicide; I am the macro-close-up of a stem. I am all the images I glimpsed in my feed. Because now, I know that a diversified identity is the software update to true association. Goth-librarian-chic. Dasha Nekrasova, cute girl shooting guns, a right-wing leftist movie star, unshowered at Equinox. How many random contradictions can you mash up in one tiny little person? This is Post-Core, not another Cringecore, Hardcore, Normcore coining terms acronym. The vibe shifted to nirvana. We're done with core, and if we could be post "post," we'd be done with that too. Postcore is the realm of hyper irrationality in the face of algorithms looking to read and mimic their target audience, where looks no longer tell us who you are. Aesthetics are not connected to thought. If you don't make sense, they can't get you. In biology, they say heart rate variability — nonlinear highs and lows — indicate a healthy person, whereas the most linear heart rate, a congruent line, equals death. So here we are, dropping schizophrenic semi-binary looks, playing hard to get with the algorithm. The disobedient consumer. Identity liquified. Is this a successful protective shield against targeted digital marketing? An effort to differ from and be superior to the machine? Actual resilience building against the mimicry of humanity by AI? OR the precursor to immortal cloud consciousness downloading itself into different physical states? If we become more irrational, will the machine follow our lead? There is a problem, Post-core is still a core. It is fake contrarian, still binary, still system affirming, it is, at best, a step in the direction of true fluidity, where we'll accept all of our isms in a future undefined.

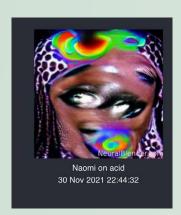








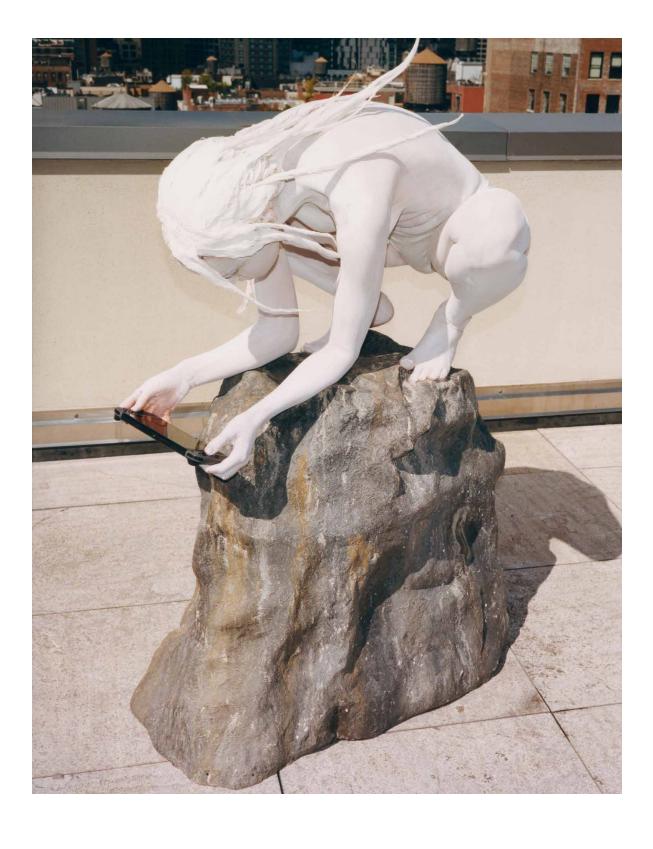






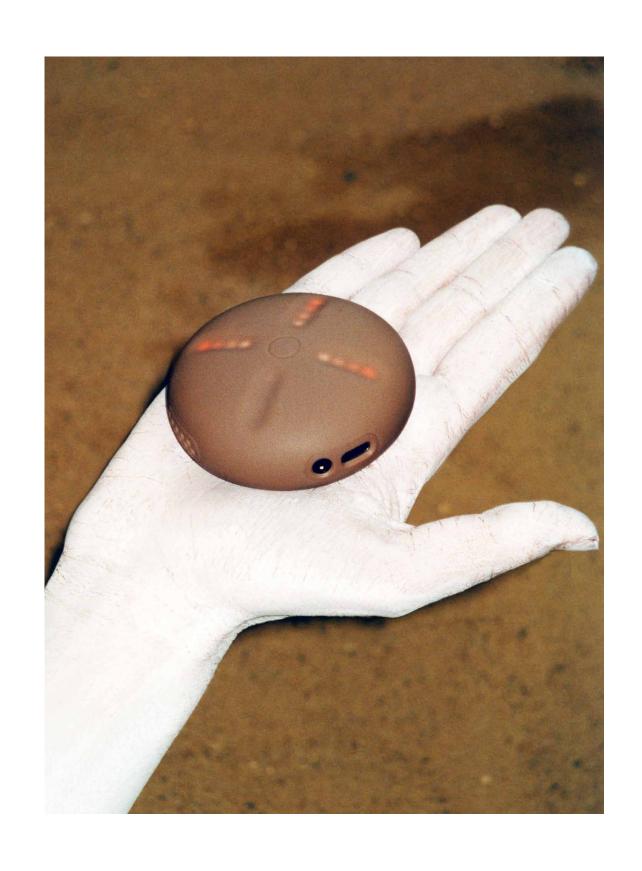






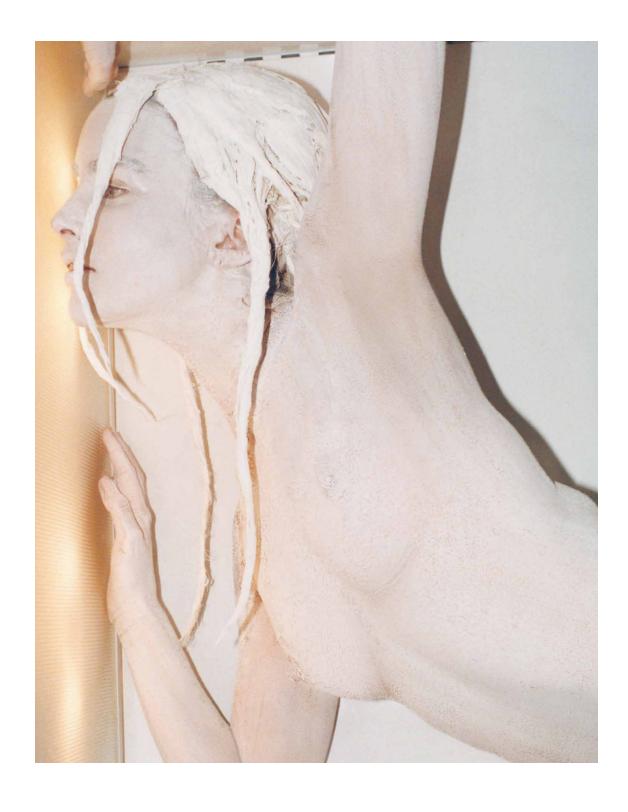










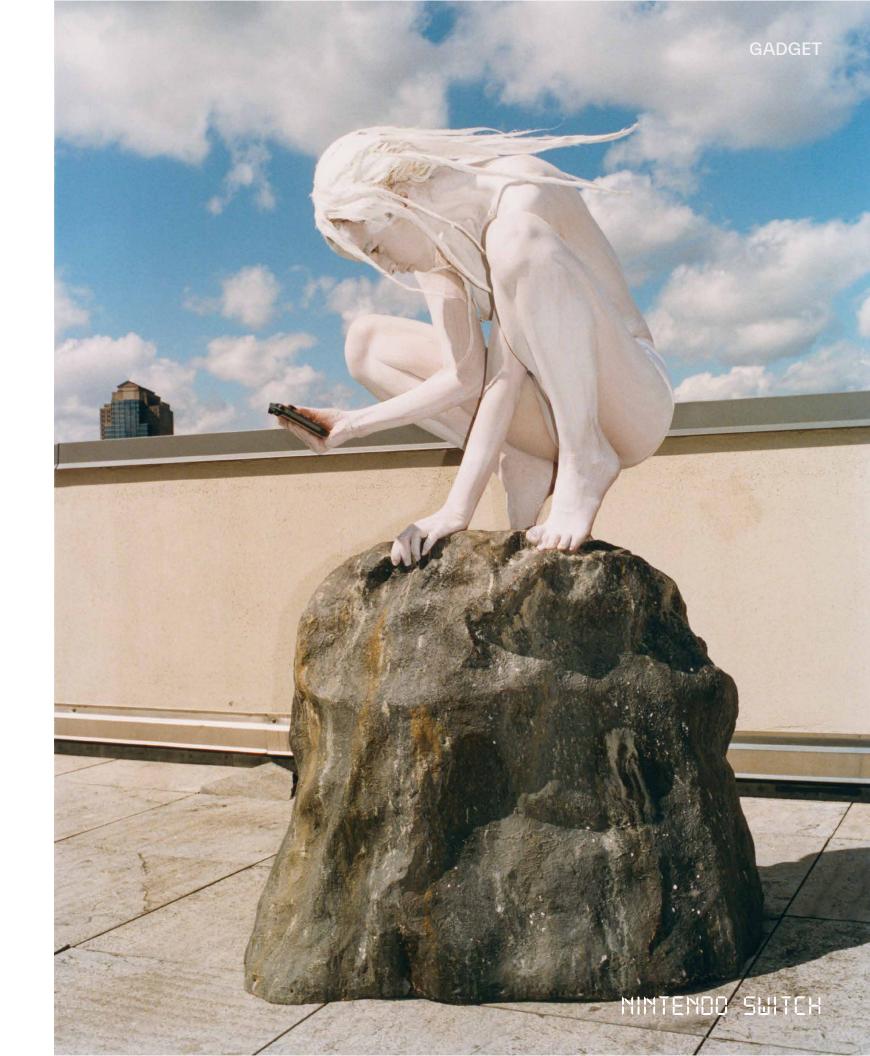
















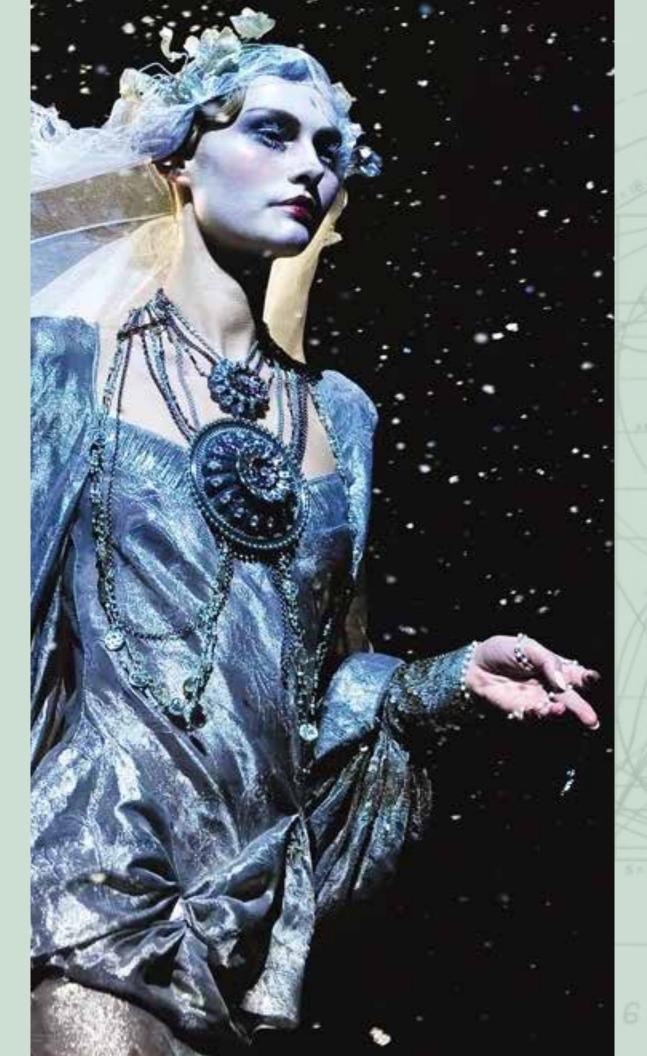






# **FANTASY VS SUPPLY CHAIN & DEMAND**

Does the \$1000 Prada cotton tank top in white make you dream? Never has the marketing aura scheme wrought greater havoc on the product it frames. You buy an aspiration knowing it's a fake. I am thirsty for beauty. I am thirsty for runway looks that aren't fit for mass production. To say it with the words of the beloved and never forgotten Andre Leon Talley: "It's a famine of beauty." I listen to architect Claudio Silvestrin muse about the forgotten knowledge of Palladio and Vitruvio's "sacred geometry," which contradicts the "ugly" aesthetic of the machine. "Where are the weirdos?" asks Dean Kissick. I want to purchase the impractical, the delicate, the unsellable imperfection that attempts to achieve a sacred ideal escaping common sense and corporate agenda. I miss crying over a fashion show. As I last did at Olivier Saillard's couture presentation in 2021. Olivier is fringe. It's Big Luxury that turns a blind eye to our desires played out in gaming avatars and Instagram memes. The closest they got was Miu Miu's Lolita mini-skirt, out of Lotta Volkova's playbook, which bridges the gap between internet subculture and corporate talk. Fantasy is back, it never left, and we are not just talking about the end of minimalism or couture revival. Fashions' never-ending nostalgia wave may be rooted here. Nostalgic for a time when product was conceived differently. An aesthetic mirroring a different mindset. Fantasy is commercial; it's the fabric of humankind. The hero's journey, the Marvell movies, the dream of another life - we need them right back where they belong, embedded in the fabrics that touch our skin. Make fantasy hardware again.





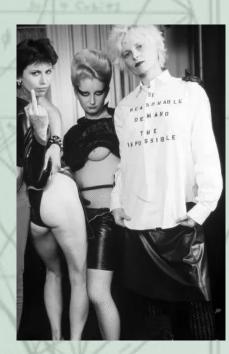
Fantasy, nothing but a memory.



FROM THE RUNWAY

Ribbed knit jersey tank top \$ 995

Basic is an aspiration.



6 Ramen

5=31,416

...lace is formed from the absence of substance; it is imagined in the spaces between the threads. Lace is a thing like hope. It lived, it survived, and it was desired for what it was not. If faith, as the nuns said, was the substance of things hoped for, then lace was the outline - the suggestion - of things not seen.

6 : Polygons and the Vitruvian Man

# **DOPAMINE FAST**

Content = Drugs — Culture = Mental Illness.

You're obsessed; you're gagging. You're dead. We've established that you're a user of soft and hardware. But what makes you come back is your deep-rooted addiction to content. It's your drug of choice. "Meghan and Harry" equals valium (it doesn't get more soothing than a PR stunt these days). Tiger King is a hint of crystal meth, and the big hit movie of the year, "Triangle of Sadness," works as an antidepressant, making us feel like we can gauge the bigger narrative but leaving us without answers. If our culture is in a downward spiral, disengagement is the only tool to stop the narrative from becoming a reality. It is on us to alter the landscape we get by changing what we like. If we all stopped wanting to see Kanye's next girlfriend in head-to-toe Balenciaga, I guarantee you; we wouldn't see them anymore. "Being" turned into "passive consumerism," and suddenly, you know more about Taylor Swift's diet than about your best friend's well-being. Yet we prefer to lament the status quo than to attend to a state of withdrawal. In addiction treatment, they call it "hitting bottom." Bottom, in this case, means the natural human form. Capitalism answers the question of the human condition with PRODUCT. To be human is to consume; to be a human in peak civilization, you will want to be special, and special comes with a price tag. So now we go to \$\$\$ Austrian detox retreats to get a dosage of what is available to us free of cost at any time: silence and nature. After all, it's harder to mode-shift than to object-shift. We cleanse our gut, but what about our content taste buds? You need to go on a dopamine fast. Take away all the stimuli. Restraint and discipline are forgotten qualities in the century of comfort and convenience. Dopamine fasting is the anti-indoctrination measure to phase out any distortion obscuring our souls' longing. Put down your phone, stop watching that show. Stop reading altogether for a while. It's momentary withdrawal for the greater good-emptiness generating new relational networks. Do not gobble gobble goblin mode. In a world that doesn't want you to know and act upon your soul's truth, you will have to fight for your right to be human.





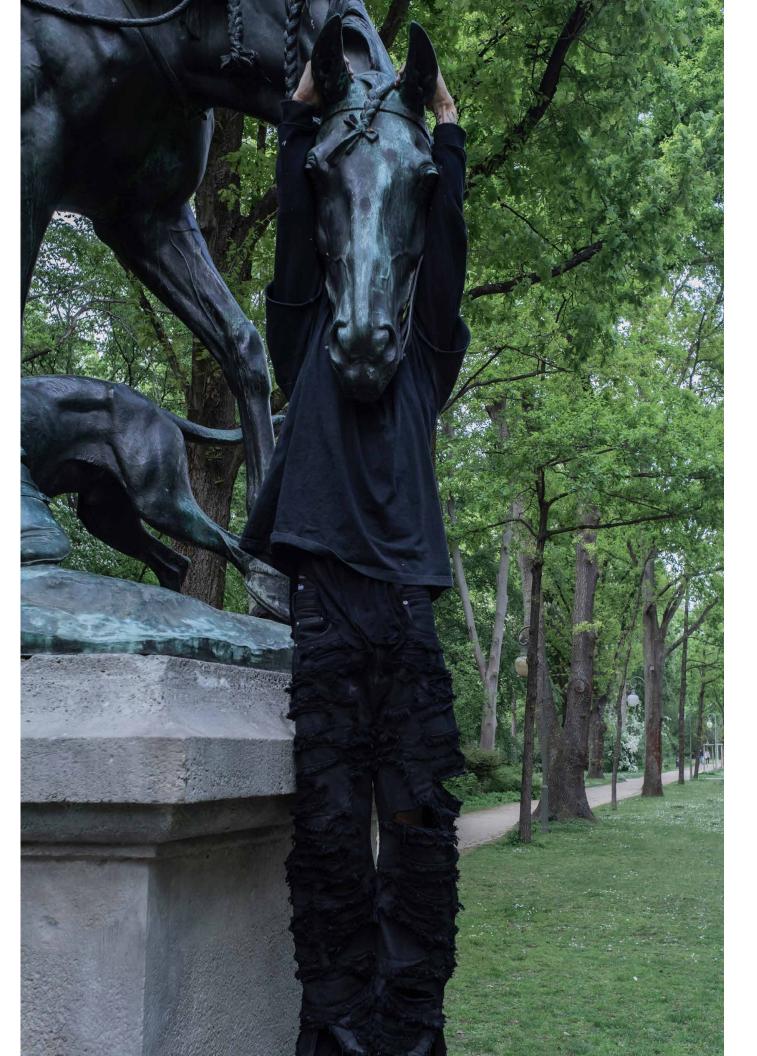
**GAME OVER** 

# CONTENT = DEVGS,

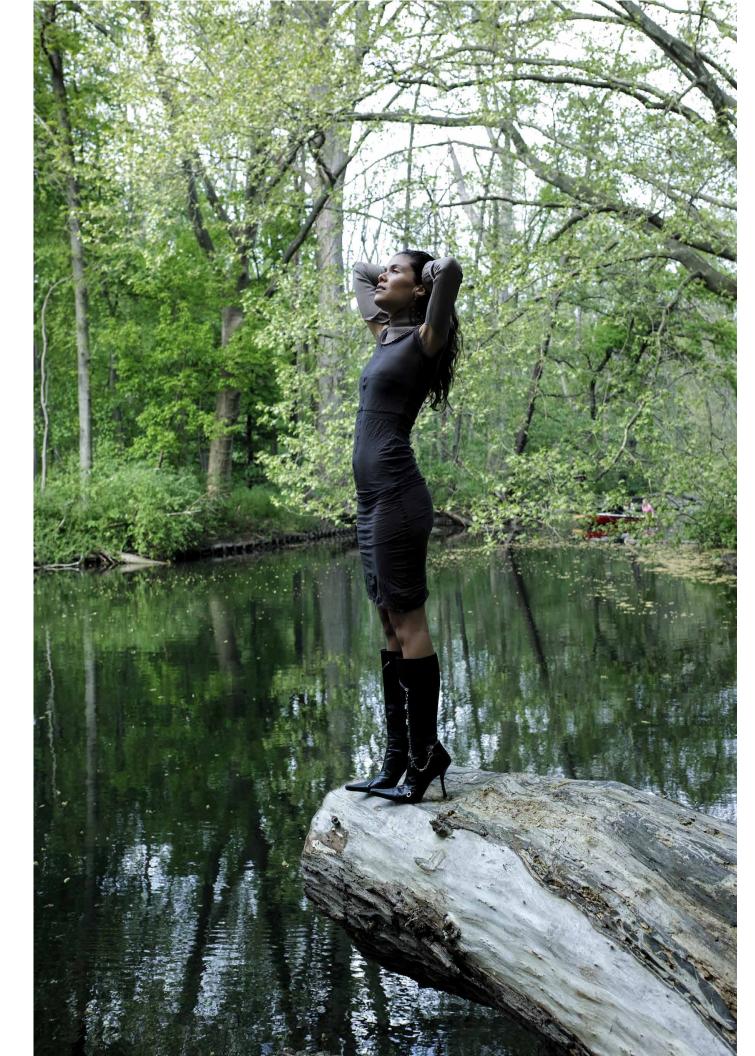


Ultimately, it is only those who control the flows of information and capital —social media platforms, market makers, exchanges—that are able to profit systematically. Meanwhile, regular people are going to have to figure out what to do with their attention, money, and predictions for the future.





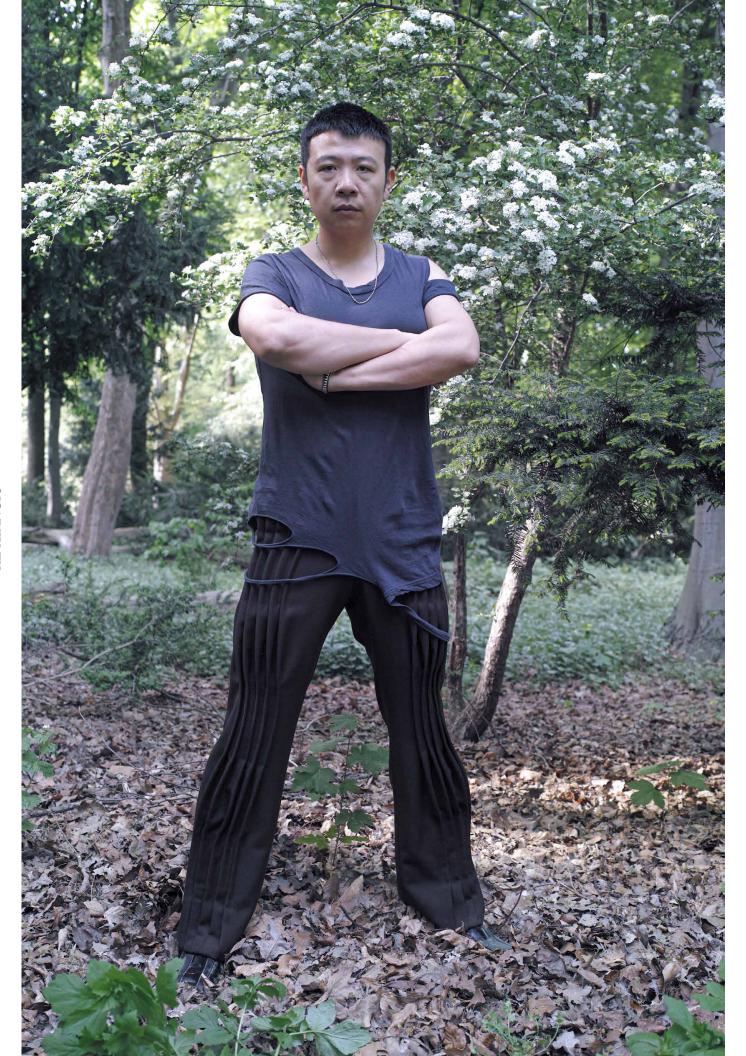
EARRINGS AND DRESS AILLEIN KNIT COLLAR FOUND @ THE GROTESQUE ACHIVE SHOES CASA BARILLI





IDPAND BOTTOM OTTOLINGER KNITWEAR SOUP ARCHIVE BELT BY NATACHA VORANGER





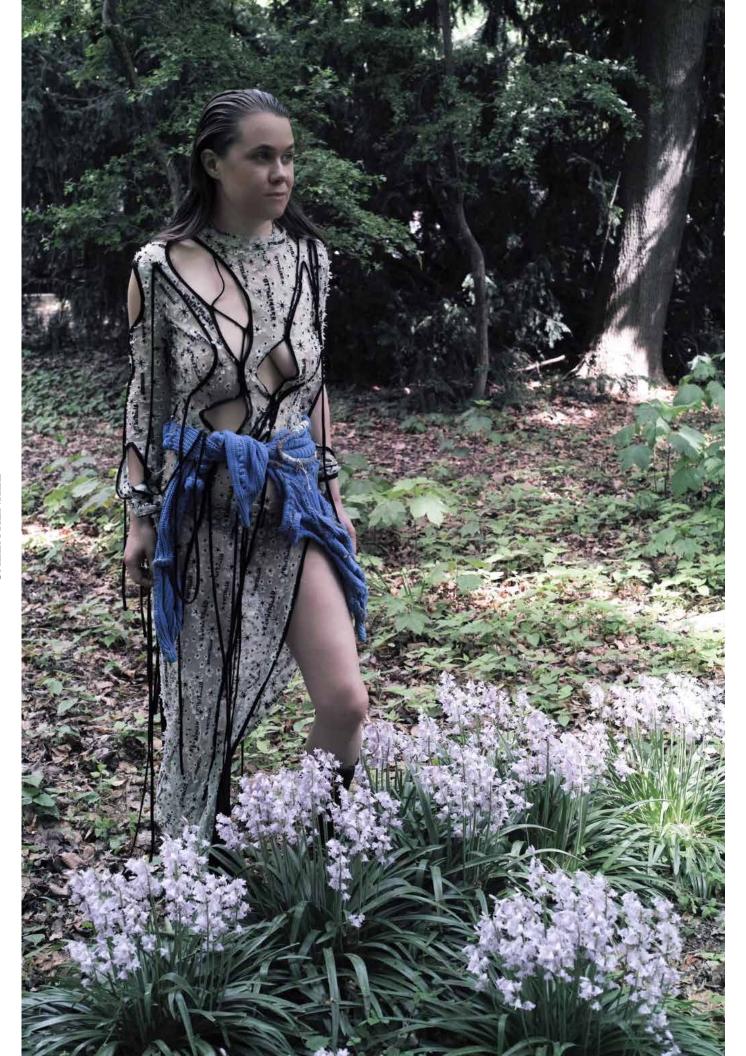






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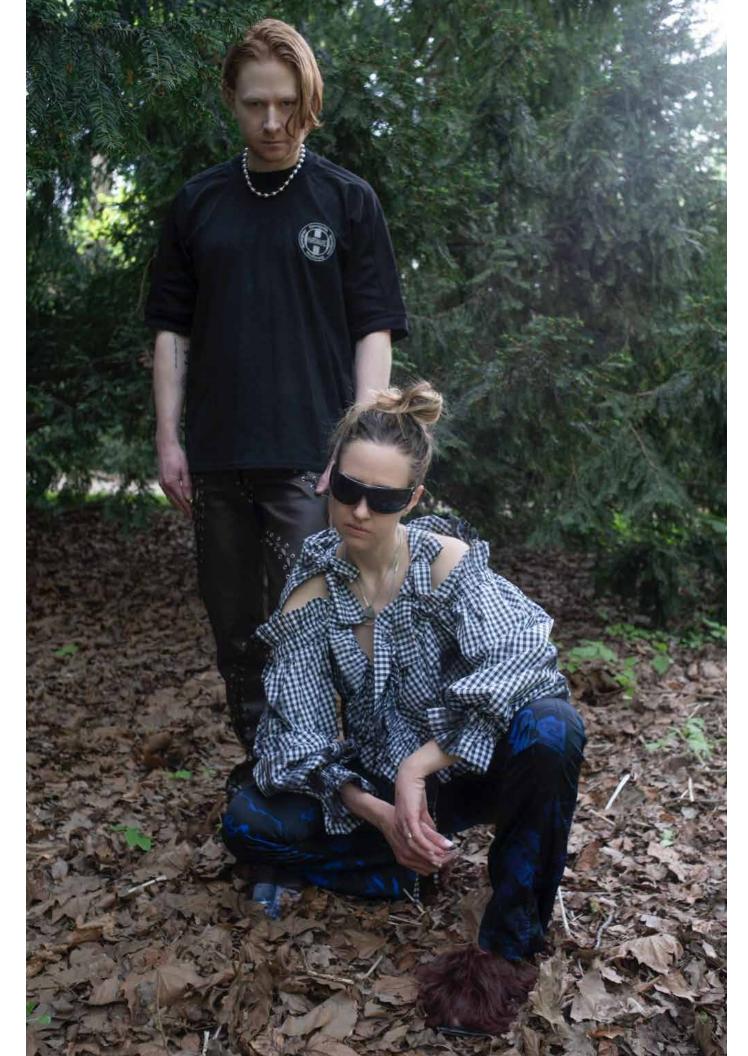


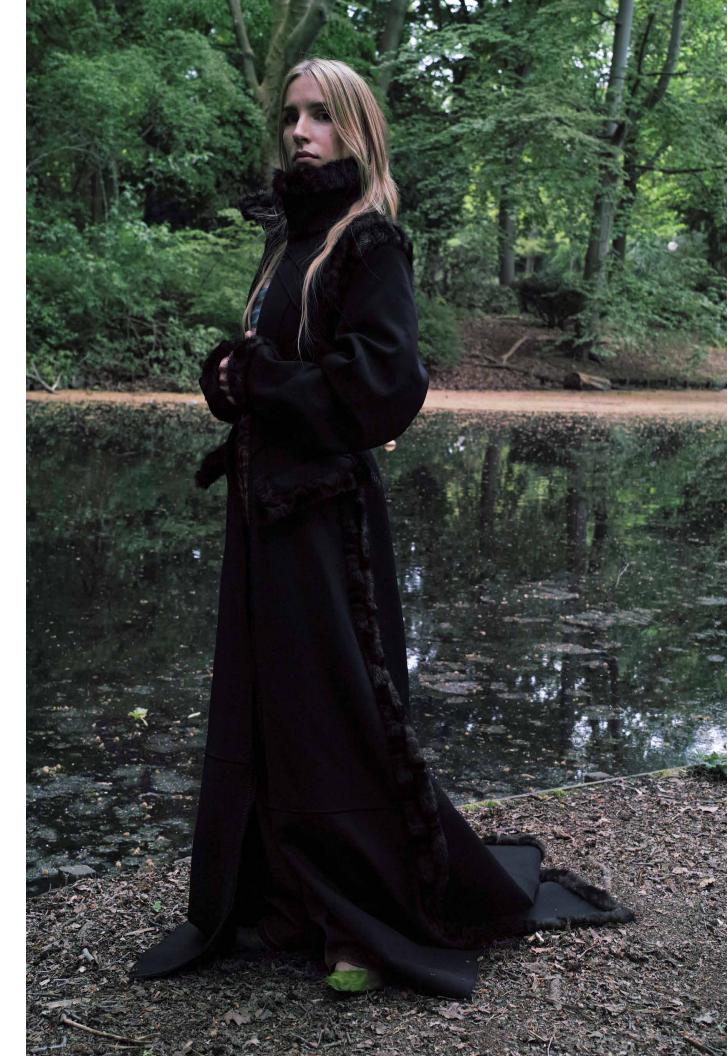
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### ANALISA TEACHWORTH

EARRINGS AND DRESS AILLEEN KLEIN KNIT COLLAR FROM THE GROTESQUE ACHIVE SHOES CASA BARILLI

### ANNA VON RAISON

COAT TRUSSARDI TOP OTTOLINGER PANTS OTTOLINGER SHOES CASA BARILLI

### **BILLY RENNEKAMP**

COAT TRUSSARDI SHIRT AND PANTS BILLYS OWN BOOTS TRUSSARDI

### BILL KOULIGAS

BILL WEARS HIS OWN PIECES

### CALLA HENKEL

DRESS OTTOLINGER KNIT PIECE SOUP ARCHIVE

### **CAROLINE BUSTA**

TOP OTTOLINGER PANTS OTTOLINGER SHOES ANNA HEIM SUNGLASSES DIOR VINTAGE

### HE XIANGIU

T SHIRT FOUND @ THE GROTESQUE ARCHIVE TROUSERS CASA BARILLI BOOTS TRUSSARDI

### KARL HOLMQVIST

TOOL T SHIRT SUIT LUEDER SHOES CASA BARILLI

### LENGUA

LENGUA WEARS HIS OWN PIECES

### LIL INTERNET

TOP JULIAN'S OWN PANTS ANNA HEIM SHOES CASA BARILLI

### MAX PITEGOFF

TOP CASA BARILLI PANTS CASA BARILLI SHOES CASA BARILLI COAT TRUSSARDI

### SIMON DENNY

VINTAGE HOODIE JEANS LUEDER WHITE APRON STYLIST'S OWN

### THERESA PATZSCHKE

TOP AND BOTTOM OTTOLINGER KNITWEAR SOUP ARCHIVE BELT BY NATACHA VORANGER

### THYAGO SAINTE

SHIRT TOOL PANTS RICK OWENS SHOES BALENCIAGA SWEATSHIRT GAP X BALENCIAGA

### FRAMING FLUIDITY

A burning church with Marilyn Manson to greet you on the porch. A rapper, descending from heaven back to earth. Pseudo-Christian Propaganda funded by Apple TV the same day as the Taliban are regaining control over Afghanistan with the withdrawal of the US Military. Models "golluming" through a Mudscape of Sodom and Gomorrah. One has to ask, "How many more times can the world die?" for it to be interesting? Aesthetically speaking, we've been in the dark ages. Referencing nihilism and fascism folded under monumental minimalism, which said subtexts we felt but didn't address (mean?). Lesson one in art history: aesthetic follows system. We are looking at the tail end of what dominated the last decade, if not a century: brutalist, minimalist, racist monumentalism, reframed in a pop-cultural context. Why do artists like Anne Imhof or Kanye West keep returning to this playbook? Because the power aesthetic of the future operating system has yet to be framed. Just as matriarchy is not simply patriarchy with the men swapped for women, a fluid power structure doesn't have to look like a pastel Ettore Sottsass mirror. It should be a reconsideration of what we deem monumental.





I am sad and I like Rammstein



Why is this not the official church merch?



It's giving Ausschwitz

### LO-FI IS SCI-FI

In sci-fi movies like "I am Mother," the protagonist of the future tends to appear in a muted color sweatpants ensemble, standing in an empty spaceship without physical belongings or any tchotchke. Technology and its intelligence are, for the most part, embedded and, therefore, invisible. The next innovation in hardware will be the disappearance of touch commands. We will control our phones directly with our thoughts. We believe that the future will pretty much look like the present. No Matrix digit codes dropping from the sky, no cyborg prosthetics cluttering the sublime. A seamless surface of an unassuming reality in high resolution. The low-res glitch is the human trace in a high-functioning system. We are already shitposting pixelated content as if the iPhone 14 doesn't exist." Shitposting" produces lo-fi montage images to deliberately disparage or undermine a cause. A descent into a trash visual culture whereby low-res content is seen as more valuable than the polished output of the mainstream media. Pixelated images are a political medium, answering the demand for fast content while breaking with the algorithm that favors high-res. Aesthetic follows system, but can system follow aesthetic? Are we coming to prefer the glitch to oppose corporate technocracy? What if we could change the system by valuing a different aesthetic? A revolution from below, in 124KB.





Can you tell it's the future?



**Prime Content** 



low-res photography artist Lengua

# in defense of the poor image

excerpts from hito steyerls' visionary essay about the oppressive quality of high-resolution applied to fashion ads

Quotes from: In defense of the poor image by Hito Steyerl. Image Credit: Modified ads from Dior, Prada, Miu Miu, Bottega Veneta and Balenciaga. Text based imagery by @pixelausterity As it accelerates, it deteriorates.

The poor image is an illicit fifth-generation bastard of an original image ... It mocks the promises of digital technology. By losing its visual substance the poor image recovers some of its political punch and creates a new aura around it.

... It is no longer ranked and valued according to its resolution, but floats on the surface of temporary and dubious data pools.



PARADIGM

### MAN VS MACHINE

### **CULTURAL CLOCK**

A friend of mine likes to say, "Life is long," which has a really soothing quality. Time is an experience far less rational than the digits on a clock. Technological progress and an overflowing stream of content give the impression that things are moving extremely fast. On the internet, which is made up of unmetabolized verbal expressions, action only feeds the digital archives of the past.

Al itself is an innovation simulation that has yet to generate real progress. It has only sped up existing processes. Felt-speed of progress is challenged by the actual speed of processing, which is made visible by culture. The topics we discuss indicate if the needle moved. On the cultural clock, we're still in 2016, when the Berlin Biennale curated by the DIS Collective, fittingly named "The Present in Drag," presented ideas we still haven't processed. So no news today; We're republishing the Berlin Biennale press release. Let's focus.





Berlin Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst
 Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

As a theme, "the present" strikes a slightly desperate tone. Like a spin-class instructor trying to power through a massive hangover. Exhibitions have increasingly come to resemble TED Talks—theaters of competence. There is a pleasure principle at play, not too different from disaster films or horror movies. People clutch their tote bags a little tighter when they hear the phrases "big data," "filter-bubble," "post-internet," and "anthropocene" amplified through the venue speakers.

Welcome to the post-contemporary. The future feels like the past: familiar, predictable, immutable—leaving the present with the uncertainties of the future. Is Donald Trump going to be president? Is wheat poisonous? Is Iraq a country? Is France a democracy? Do I like Shakira? Am I suffering from depression? Are we at war?

It is the present that is unknowable, unpredictable, and incomprehensible forged by a persistent commitment to a set of fictions. There is nothing particularly realistic about the world today. A world in which investing in fiction is more profitable than betting on reality. It is this genre shift from sci-fi to fantasy that makes it inspiring, open, up for grabs, non-binary. The supergroup(s) of artists and collaborators that we have mobilized are not fatigued but energized by this uncertainty. In this climate anyone can begin to build an alternative present, reconfigure failed narratives, decipher meaning from continual flux.

### FROM THE CATALOGUE OF THE 9TH BERLIN BIENNALE

THE PRESENT IN DRAG
DIS (LAUREN BOYLE, SOLOMON
CHASE, MARCO ROSO, DAVID
TORO)

The age of the customizable sneaker, political narrowcasting, algorithmic taste, and individuated diet regimes has splintered the universal into a multiplicity of differences. Just as the figure of the individual seems to loom larger than ever, her individuality has been busted up and shattered into fragments by countervalent, contradictory forces. The 9th Berlin Biennale will create a stage for this actor of the self to roleplay her own obsolescence.

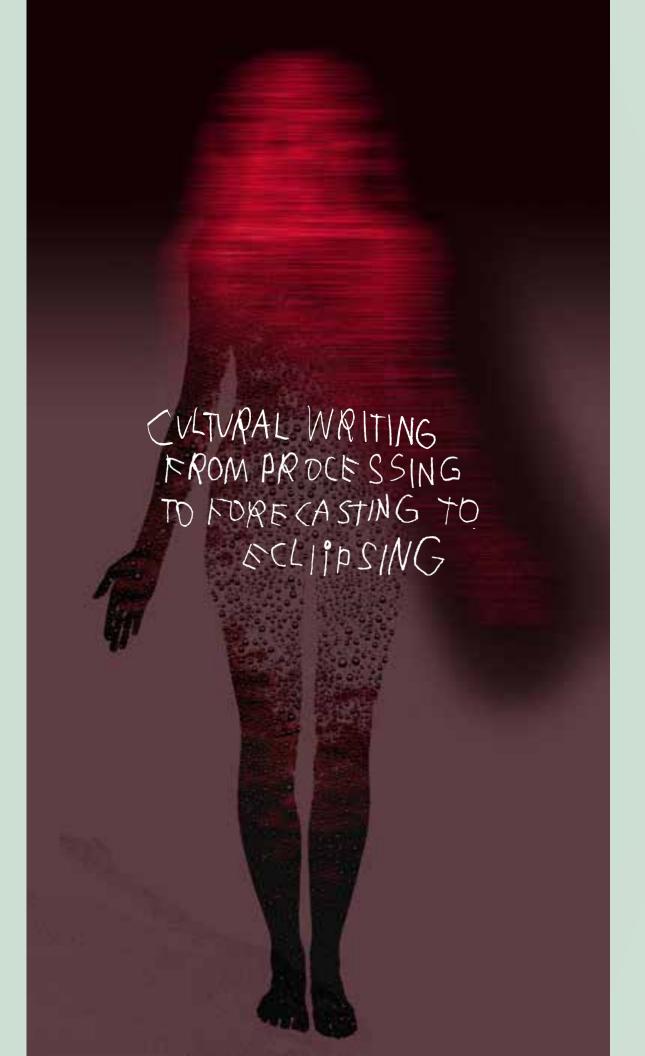
Our proposition is simple: Instead of holding talks on anxiety, let's make people anxious. Rather than organizing symposia on privacy, let's jeopardize it. Let's give a body to the problems of the present where they occur so as to make them a matter of agency—not spectatorship.

Instead of unmasking the present, this is *The Present in Drag*.

### **BE A BODY**

We present the non-verbal solution - The end of thought leadership. Cultural writing went from processing past centuries (60's hippies, 70's psychedelics, 80's big business) to trend forecasting (Normcore, and so forth). To cultural eclipsing, where we skip a trend by announcing its arrival (Indie Sleaze, The Cobra Snake was invited back to one party, and that was it.) The same can be said for Web 3.0 and Crypto. Announced as a revolution, both got hijacked before turning into one. Coining terms is commodified thought. Every definition attempts to impose itself as if it were the only one, feeding the current binary landscape. This generation of thinkers can't seem to solve the maze of our time. We are under the influence of powerful institutions, and true to The Streisand Effect, institutional critique only reinforces institution. We cannot talk ourselves out of this system's crisis that is taking place on the battleground of the mind? I am complicit in an over-intellectualization that will not lead to a solution. Even writing this issue's theories feels like a lobotomy. The solution will come unspoken, from within. Freed from the constraints of culturally and systemically programmed thought. That thing still undefined is always the secret sauce. When we define it, we kill it. Only the atmospheric will drive change. Action is word. Embodiment is change. Don't think; just feel and act in silence. Be a body.





**johannaleeowen** may 2023 be a year we exude style without discussing fashion whatsoever

discussing vs being





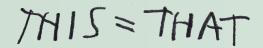
### **VIBRANTT MATTER**

On the internet, visuals don't exist. All matter is turned into the great equalizer — CODE. In the book "Vibrant Matter — A Political Ecology of Things," Jane Bennett makes a case for the active capacity of inanimate objects. Instead of declaring herself the author of her book, she says it was co-written by the temperature in her room, her gut bacteria, the memories popping up in front of her eyes, and the sound of the analog clock ticking by her writer's desk. Objects have an active component. Garbage illustrates that well. We don't think of waste as a conscious being, but it has a life of its own, withering away until fully decayed. While AI might not have a consciousness, it can evoke emotions and influence us. Our fear of Al as the Other, the Foreign, can't exist in a world where we regard all matter under the sun as more or less equal. Machines reflect the human minds that create them. The digital is a mirror of the physical. This = That. (Biomimicry). Vitality equals power minus obstruction. In our case, obstruction is human hubris, our egotistical view of the world as separate and lesser than us. When we acknowledge that our gut microbes influence the cultural landscape, our actions will be shaped by a newfound sense of responsibility. Here we make a case for a world in which we don't seek difference but commonality. Our relationship with the world is limited by a human centered definition of consciousness. There is intelligence that predates the human brain and will continue long after its extinction.





A debate over plant consciousness is forcing us to confront the limitations of the human mind





consciousness exists outside of the human mind-body connection



THIS = THAT



intelligence



THIS = THAT

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THIS = THAT

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identity



THIS = THAT



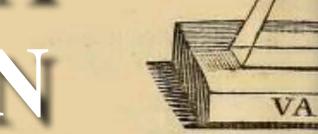
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## BEA

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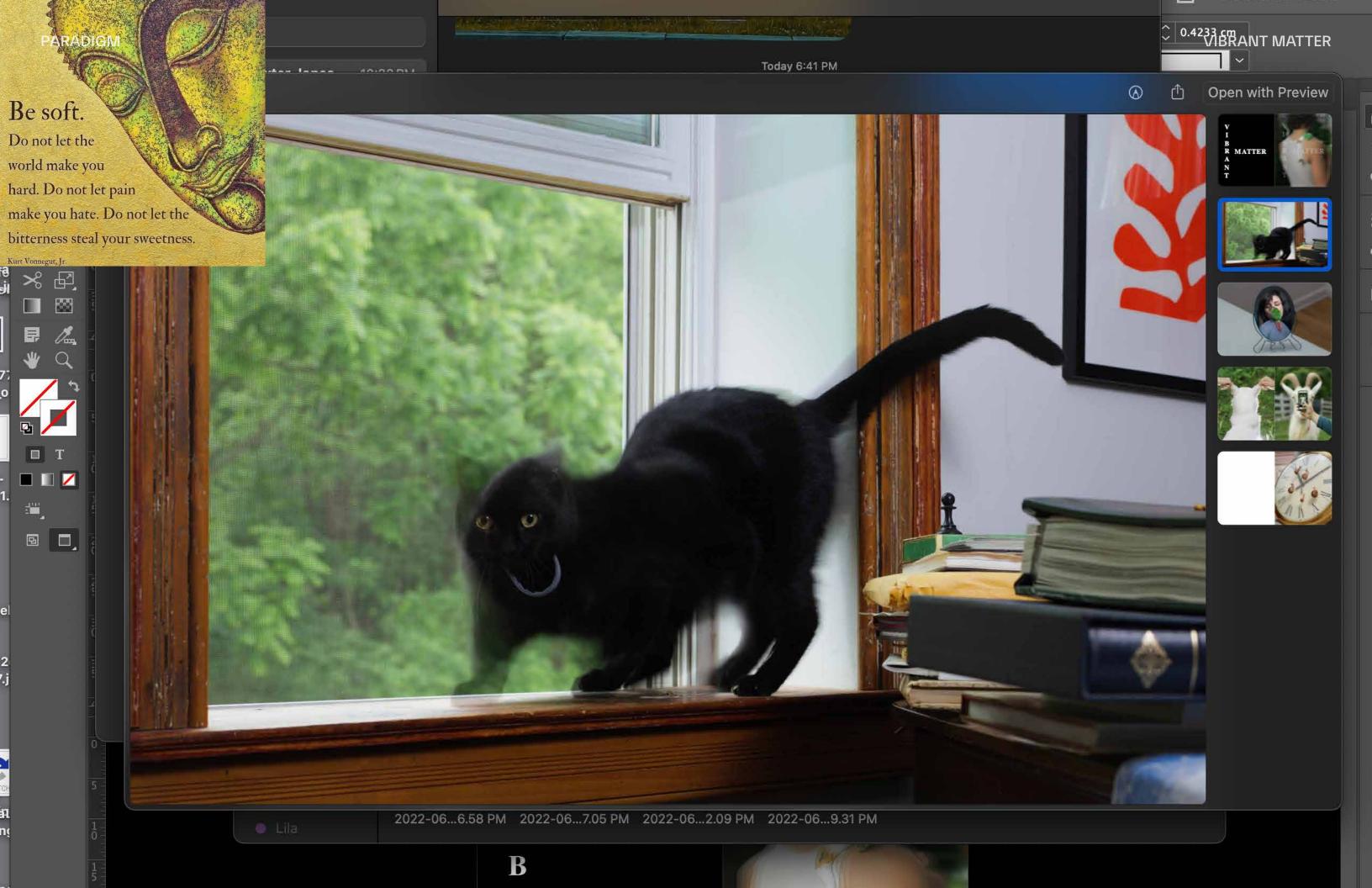
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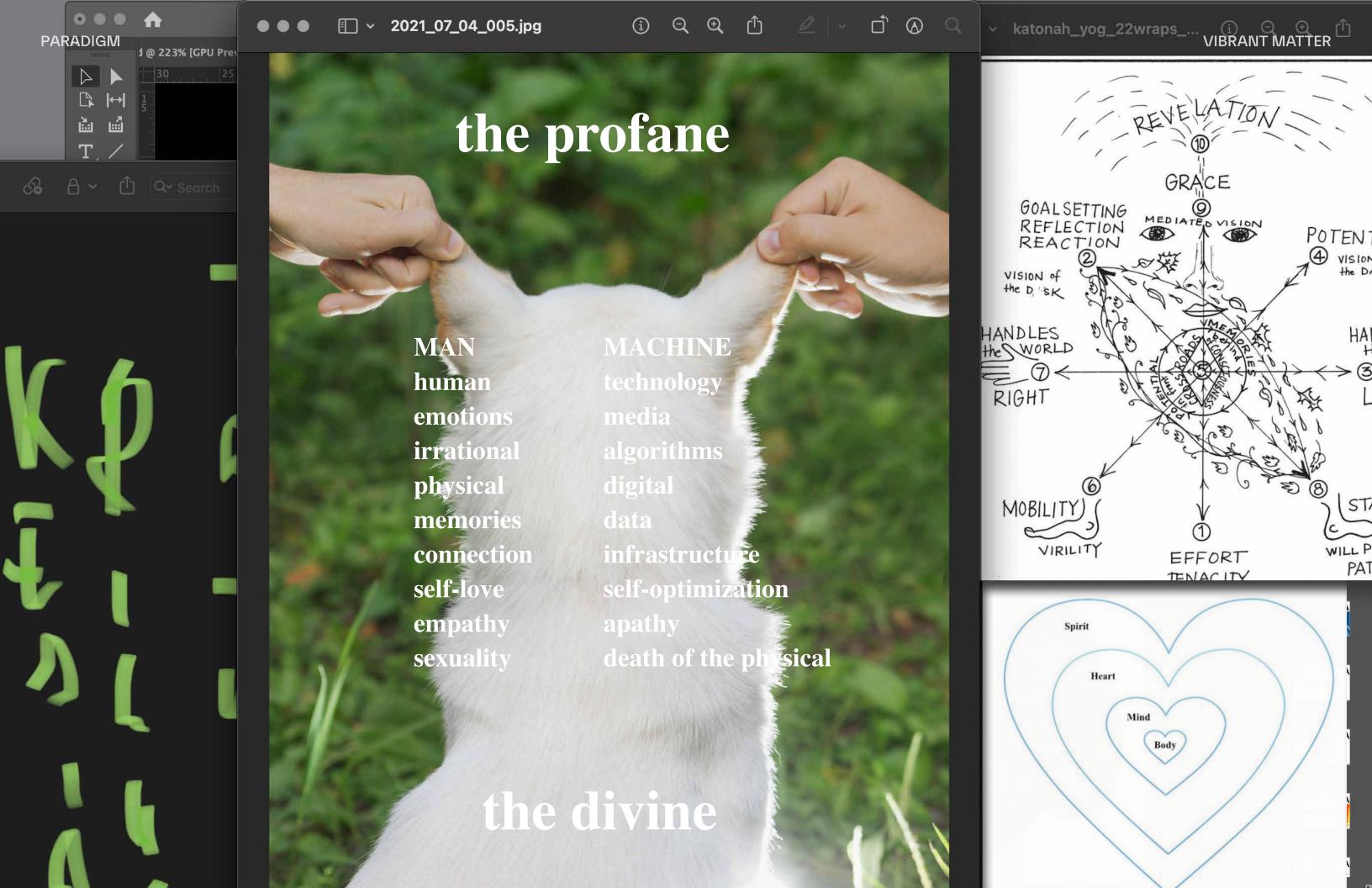
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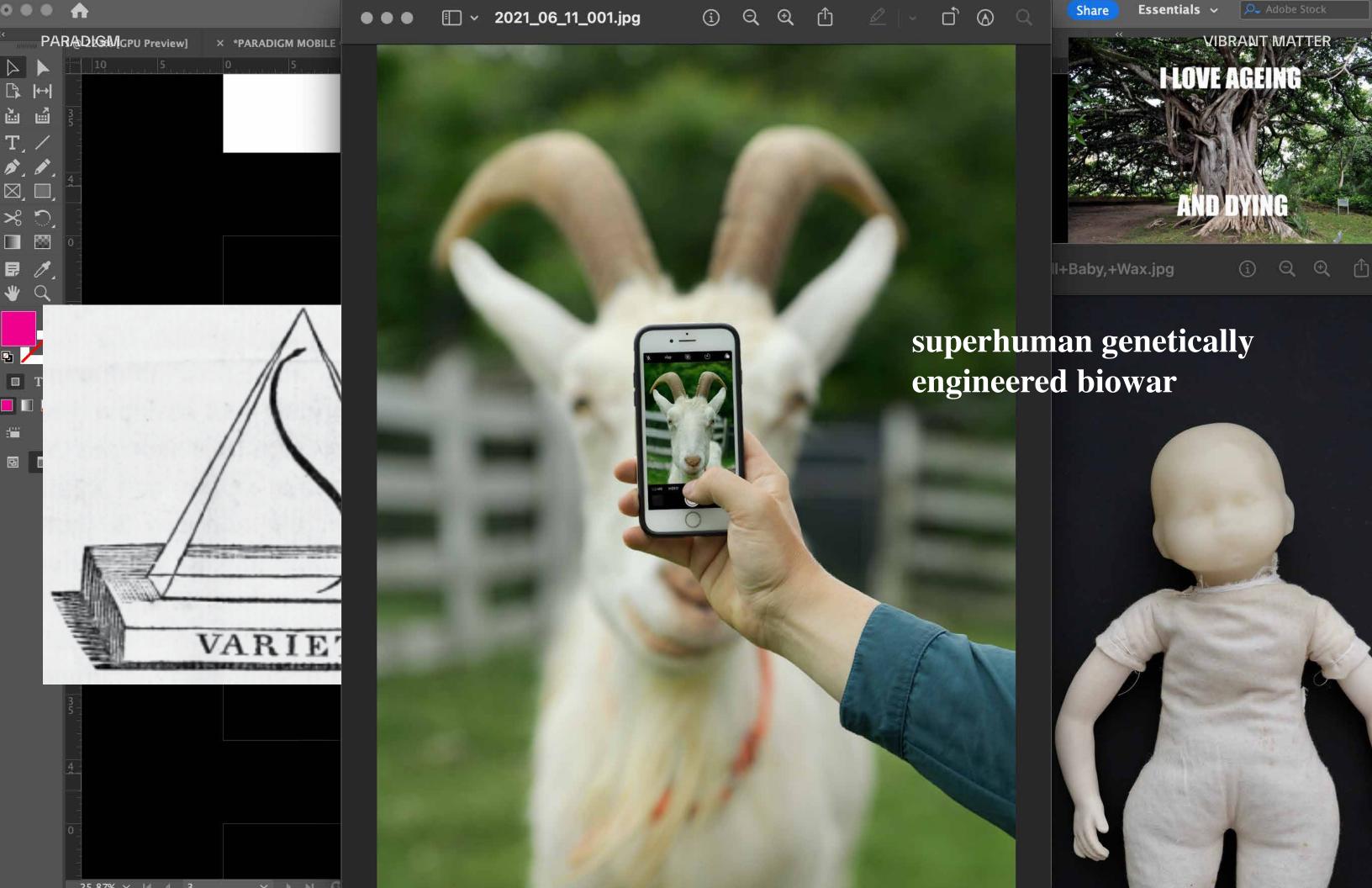


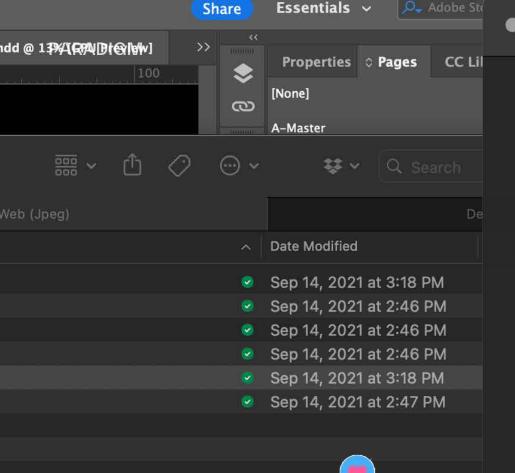
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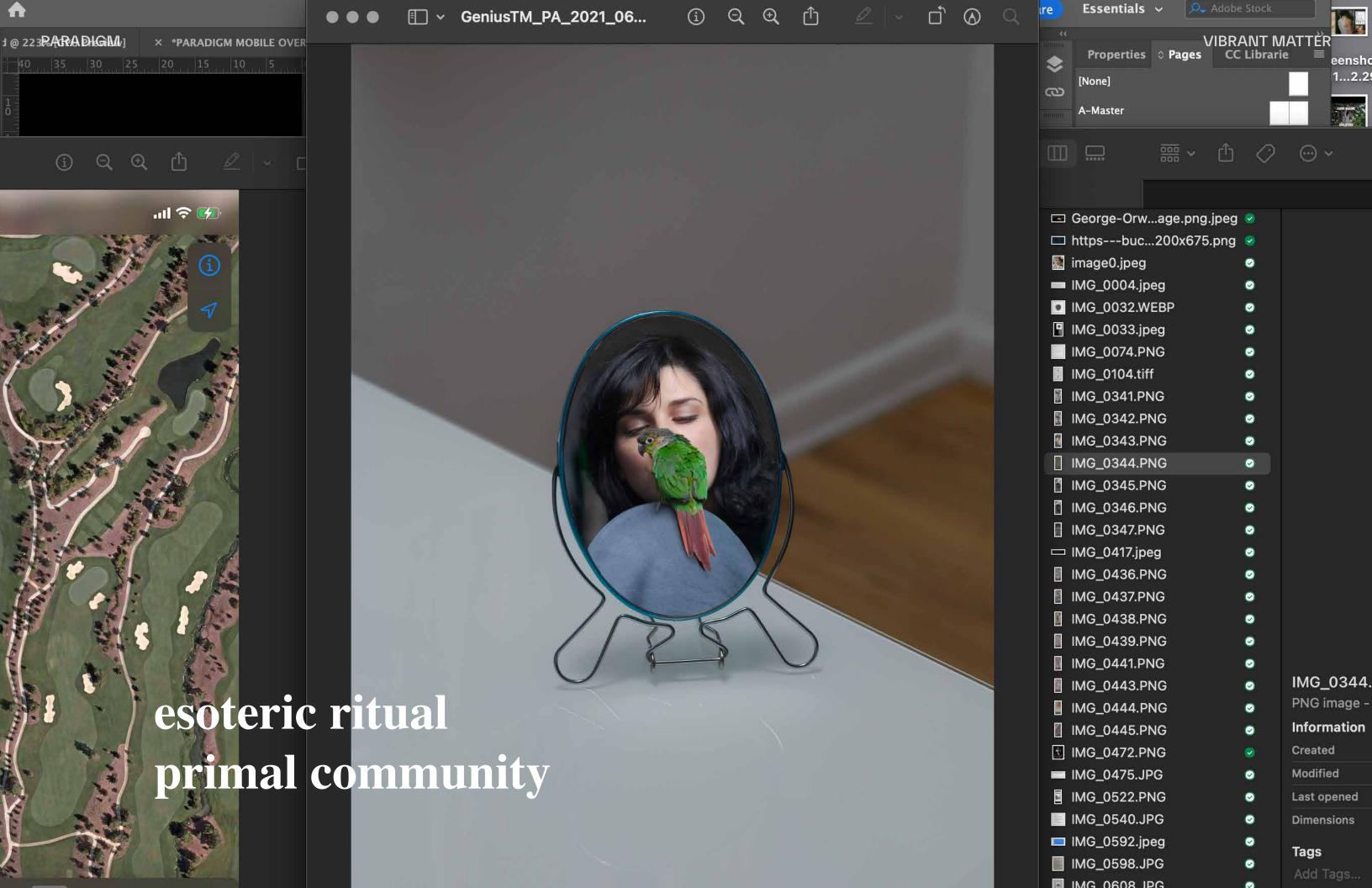


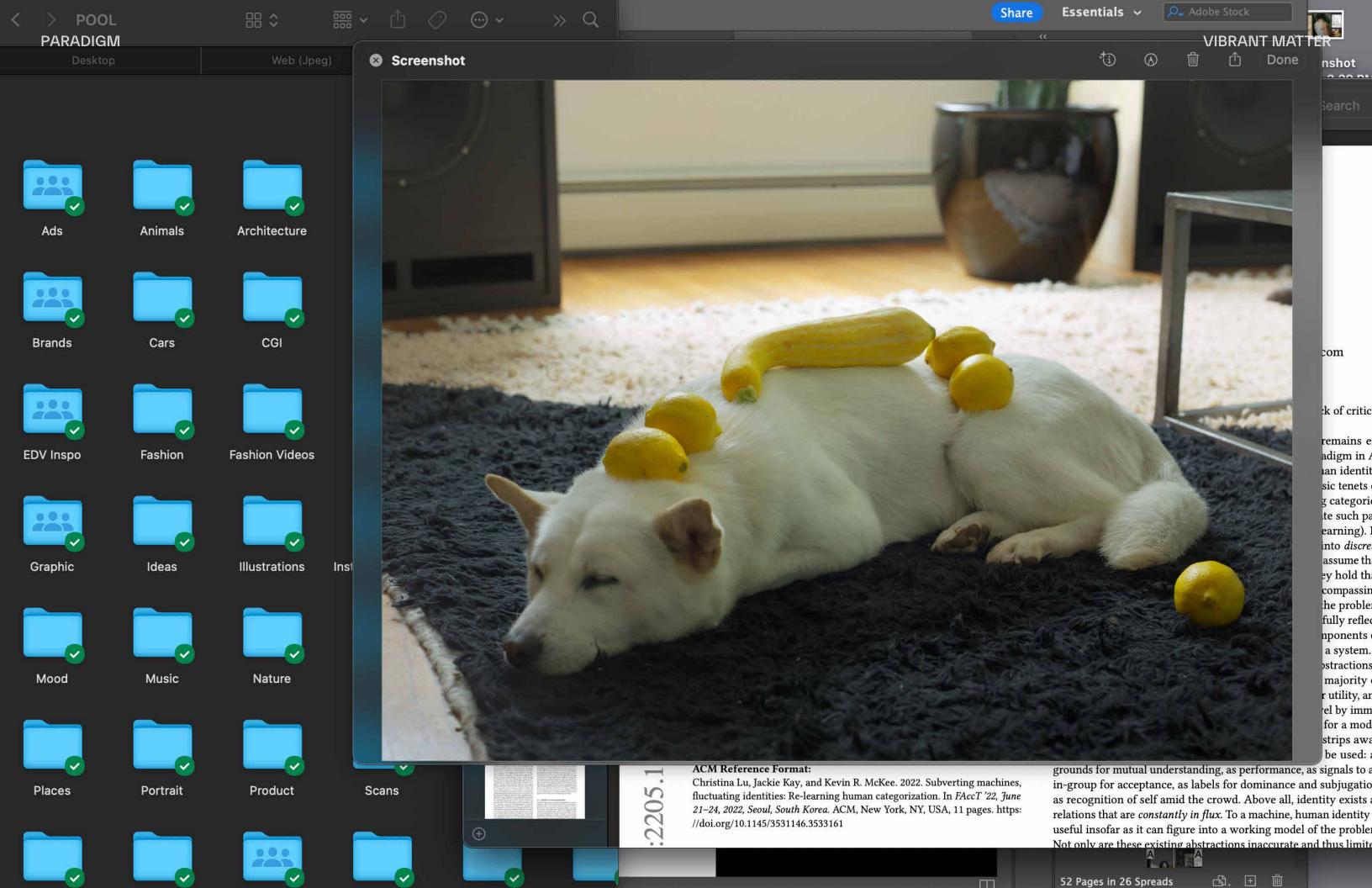
the immediate problem in this i sense, is that online i have no body. there is no way to locate "where i am". i experience the virtual chatter as a surrounding of my reality. an ever-present overlay to a realm with a potentially global elsewhereness and elsewhen-ness. to adapt we navigate this as a spiritual tech, and medium-like channeling that discludes my body. tik tok dances prove an adaptive strategy, but the larger problem of "when am i" remains (no mini-van to move across the board of life). while young there are still successive life stages and adolescent developments to mark the passing of time, but these largely fall away around the age of 25



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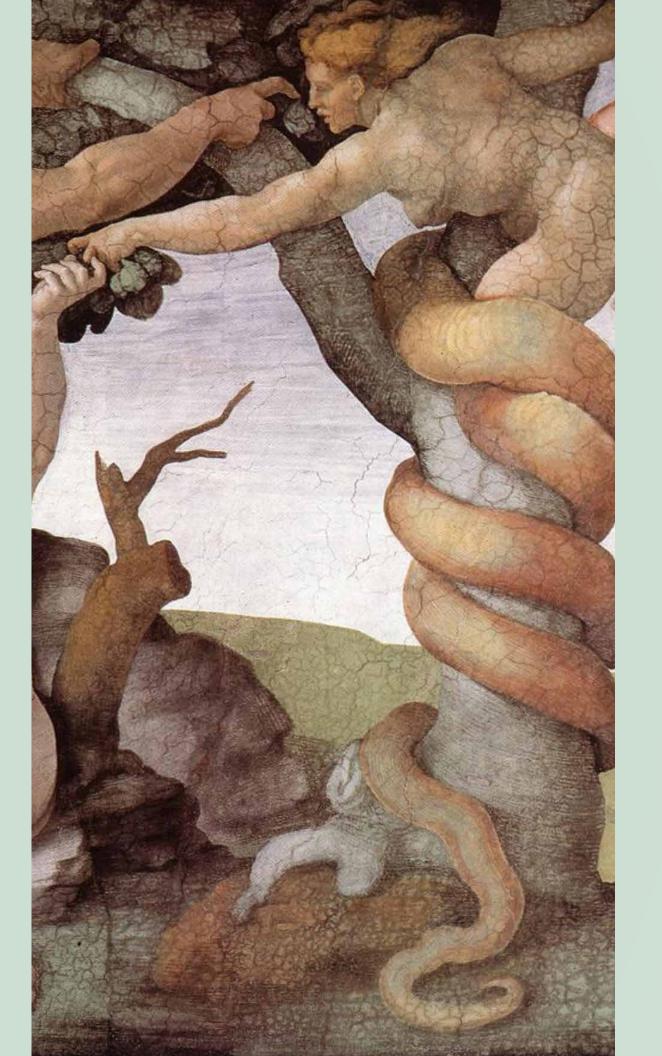
### TRUE POWER LIES IN INTENTION

The eerie feeling around technology is directed toward the human energy running it.

"Freud argues the feeling of uncanniness stems from the unwelcome return of that which is mentally repressed via a seemingly unrelated avatar. We work very hard to shield ourselves from the monstrous reality of the economic and social system that maintains the lifestyles of the global elite. We push it down, ignore it, hide it, and attempt to destroy or displace it as much as we can. But we cannot escape it. The rise of the machines, then—a conveniently inhuman formulation of the tragically human consequences of capitalist production for workers and their eventual revolt-makes for an ideal fantasy through which the uncanny anxiety of capitalism can express itself." Jordan Pearson."

Everyone can enjoy a life of luxurious leisure if the machine-produced wealth is shared, or most people can end up miserably poor if the machine owners successfully lobby against wealth redistribution. So far, the trend seems to be toward the second option, with technology driving ever-increasing inequality." Stephen Hawking "Salvation will lie in neither a datacenter-smashing anarchy nor an orderly, fully comprehensible system of computation, but in a deliberate corruption of the dream of scale and ease." Christina Hu

Machines will always reflect the human minds that created them. It's not about technology or humans; it's how. However mechanized we become the intricacy and complexity of human life haunts and embodies everything we create. Our true power lies in our intentions. May the force be with us.



### TEE

### **We're Scared of Robots Because We're Scared of Humans**

Fear can't hide forever.







### Why Stephen Hawking is more afraid of capitalism than robots

By Brian Resnick | @B\_resnick | brian@vox.com | Feb 27, 2016, 10:10am EST





### **LOVE WINS**

God, love, and genuine feeling are the only truly contrarian positions we can take- Not for the sake of performing contrarianism but as a commitment to a psycho-spiritual-somatic transformation - To love and to own loving is disarming. When the narrative officially collapses, we can finally be freed from the plot. In apocalyptic crisis, you'll only think about the ones you want close. Love is what we came here for.

I love you.

Just as you are.

TO CHOOSE TO LOVE



Living as we do in a culture of domination, to truly choose to love is heroic what is being soft? softness is > being cozy being cozy
 crying on public transit
 rejecting Toughen Up narratives
 accepting the softness of the body
 a rejection of capitalism
 a reclamation of tenderness
 having pride in the quiet
 fostering care through the community



> loving ur friends

the society we live in is rigid and unforgiving. it leaves no place for those who are not also rigid and unforgiving. it creates narratives of sharpness, of rigidity, to tell people to be hard. it tells people they have to take care of themselves. it tells people to suck it up. it tells people to be uncomfortable at all times.

being soft is a revolutionary act.

### PARADIGM FURTHER READING

**Boris Groys** 

Art, Technology & Humanism

Christina Lu

The Algorithmic Internet

Lev Manovich

**Al Aesthetics** 

Jane Bennett

Vibrant Matter

Hito Steyerl

In Defense of the Poor Image

William Hogarth

The Analysis of Beauty

Jean Baudrillard

The System of Objects

Computer Prose & Poetry by Ractor

The Policemans Beard is Half Constructed

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