

KASIA MICHALSKI

Gallery

Rafał Dominik

After Humans, Before Robots: Top 10 Little Known Stories

1. QUANTUM OF POP

As the artist explains, “For me, High Quality Pop Culture is always in perfect balance between the past and the future. Metaphorically speaking, when we walk, one foot is always behind, while the other sets the path in the front.” This theme is illustrated in the form of a mural entitled “From Tradition into Modernity”.

2. RUINS

A classic painting, in which a collapsed Greek column is depicted in a simplified way. Along with popular culture, the Greco-Roman architectural heritage forms the basis of our common visual language — although we seem to build our identity on what are, in fact, only remnants.

3. INFO (new and alternative forms of personality)

This theme builds on the differences between humans and artificial intelligence, which, according to Ray Kurzweil’s theory of Singularity, will soon overpass us. It is represented by two 3d-rendered graphic works. The first one, “Consciousness and Unconsciousness” from the “Comparisons” series, shows two organic shapes—one composed in a chaotic way, and the other one well-structured. These can be viewed as an analytical interpretation of the human mind. The second work—a lightbox hidden behind the mobile wall panel, entitled “Sudden Lack of Continuity in Life”—epitomizes something less obvious: it is a speculative vision of a new life form: a post-human entity, or artificial intelligence.

4. AUGMENTATIONS (20/20 VISIONS)

The second work from the “Comparisons” series: “How Humans See the World vs. What the World Really Looks Like a.k.a. Objectivity” presents the notion of human perception and its augmentation. The two other works in the section: “HUD (head-up display)” and “Moto Rider”, both relate to the “armor” we apply to stimulate and protect our bodies.

5. PUMP!

This theme is exemplified by an acrylic painting, aptly described by the title: “Scooters in an Disco Polo concert in a Parking Lot by the Mall”. The second work in this story, entitled “60fps_800dpi_200bpm” (“Something that is dynamic, energetic and stimulating”, as the artist explains) is exhibited on the gallery’s glass doors.

6. INFO (new and alternative forms of body)

Here, Rafał Dominik reveals his fascination with the automotive: a passionate driver, the artist finds pleasure in every aspect of using a vehicle, from washing the windshield on a gas station, to stacking the luggage in the trunk. He also points out how things become inextricable parts of ourselves. In the patio, he also presents “Rubber Body” – a metal sculpture representing an idea of the posthuman, technologized body, symbolized by the letters Rb.

7. SCALE+TRANSFORM

The title of this section alludes to the commands used in graphic software. According to Dominik, the miniature form of the recurring column refers to the timeless fascination with models and mockups: mini-worlds we can build and control.

8. LANGUAGE

In section no. 8, the letters “O” and “K”, carved in Indian sandstone, “celebrate the moment of becoming “OK”.” The work clearly indicates Dominik’s fascination with words and their archeology.

9. EMOTIONS

A series of drawings representing scenes from ordinary life of “normal people”, based on personal observations.

10. EVIL

The stone sculpture introduces the concept of “energizing evil”—captured in a motivational “PowerCube®”.

Rafał Dominik Born in 1985 in Warsaw, he graduated from the Faculty of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (diploma in the workshop of Leon Tarasewicz, 2009). He creates animated films, digital paintings, collages and videos, devises ‘domestic scale’ sculptures and elements of clothing. He has exhibited in the most important contemporary art institutions in Poland, most recently at the Zachęta — National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Galeria Arsenal in Białystok and the BWA in Katowice. He has also realized commissions for private firms, such as Mercedes Benz Poland, and ING Polish Art Foundation.

Guided tour with the artist: September 24, 2016, 6 p.m.

A Sunday Walk in the Arkadia Shopping Center: Sunday, September 25th at 2 p.m., by the fountain opposite the main entrance. Free entrance, no registration required.

The exhibition runs until November 17th, Tue-Sat, 12-7 pm