

ARNOLFINI PRESS RELEASE

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Sequelism Part 3: Possible, Probable or Preferable Futures

18 July – 20 September 2009

Exhibition, symposium, screenings, workshop

Artists: Mariana Castillo Deball, Heman Chong, Graham Gussin, Victor Man, Francesc Ruiz, Jordan Wolfson and Haegue Yang
(with events by Neil Cummings & Marysia Lewandowska, Roy Ascott and Will Holder)

Sequelism: Possible, Probable, or Preferable Futures is a project that looks into the future and at that which is yet to happen. It considers how art and the inexact arena of futurology might be utilised as a means to better comprehend, rethink, obscure, or even colonise the present.

Knowledge of current and historical events often plays a role in collective foresight or prognosis of change that is yet to take place. In a similar fashion, futurology could be said to deal with memory in reverse. The project seeks to investigate how prospective visions might be generated for vastly differing reasons, offering great idealism on the one hand, or harnessing political and societal anxiety on the other.

The future is commonly manifested in popular cultural forms, including science fiction, yet how might we look beyond the present without recourse to established genres? To what extent does strategic foresight affect our understanding of the 'now' or the 'when'? Is the future a culturally specific phenomenon that is inherently 'Western' in its own gaze and orientation? And just how accurate can we be when imagining the future? The *Sequelism* project addresses issues and questions such as these.

Disputing illustrative organisation around a predetermined thesis, the project itself invites doubt, speculation and to-be-determined outcomes. *Sequelism Part 3* has oriented itself towards the enigmatic and the impossibility of achieving such foresight. **Victor Man's** sculptures are extremely transcendental and idiosyncratic. Resembling the aftermath of rituals by historical figures that attempted to predict the future, such as the soothsayer, the works densely obscure the possibility of any kind of clarity of vision. **Haegue Yang's** installation *Holiday for Tomorrow* (2007) utilises her trademark motif of the Venetian blind as a means to consider the possibilities of the unknown, as well as of hidden communities.

Mariana Castillo Deball's *Nobody was Tomorrow* (2008), a film visually reminiscent of Chris Marker's renowned *La Jetée*, presents an abstract narrative set in a library, in which a mysterious object converges past and future. **Graham Gussin's** *Hypnotic/Dystopic/Optic* (2009) are a series of works that present the covers of original vinyl soundtracks for renowned dystopian Science Fiction films set on Earth, but set on a wall to rotate at a speed where they are just beyond recognition. **Francesc Ruiz's** montage *UNTITLED (Bristol)* (2009) produced especially for Arnolfini's atrium space, envisions a dystopian near-future caused by an economic downturn for businesses in Bristol.

Curated by Nav Haq, Exhibitions Curator, Arnolfini and Latitudes (Max Andrews & Mariana Cánepa Luna). It will be Arnolfini's main summer exhibition in 2009, and will be the first in a trilogy of *Sequelism* exhibitions, with Part 2 in 2010.

Editors Notes



Futurology is the cultural investigation into how representations of the future affect the present. At Arnolfini it is presented as a research and exhibitions programme investigating envisionings of the future and incorporates a comprehensive season of films, screenings and events for each individual exhibition and for the season as a whole. The *Futurology* exhibition programme began with *The Good Life* (Katleen Vermeir & Ronny Heiremans) and continues with *Tommy Stöckel's Art of Tomorrow* (until 31 Aug) and *Sequelism: Part 3. Possible, Probable or Preferable Futures*.
www.futurologyprogramme.org

Exhibition preview: Friday 17 July 6pm – 8pm.

Supported by the State Corporation for Spanish Cultural Action Abroad (SEACEX), the Direction of Cultural and Scientific Relations of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institut Ramon Llull, IFA and National Arts Council, Singapore.



Film & Events Programme

Museum Futures Screening and Discussion

Sat 18 Jul 2.00pm

Free

Neil Cummings & Marysia Lewandowska's film *Museum Futures: Distributed* is a machinima record of the centenary interview with Moderna Museet's executive Ayan Lindquist in June 2058. It explores a possible genealogy for contemporary art practice and its institutions, by re-imagining the role of artists, museums, galleries, markets, 'manufactories' and academies. The screening will be also incorporate a discussion led by Neil Cummings and the curators of the *Sequelism* exhibition, discussing the future of art institutions.

The Futurological Congress Sequelism Artists' Screening Programme

Fri 21 Aug 7.30pm

£3.00/£2.00 concs

A programme of artists' videos selected by the curators of *Sequelism* to accompany the exhibition, including works by Marjolijn Dijkman, Jordan Wolfson and Julia Meltzer & David Thorne. Introduced by Nav Haq, Exhibitions Curator, Arnolfini.

David Maljkovic Scene for a New Heritage Trilogy Screening

Thurs 17 Sept 6.30pm

Free

The films in David Maljkovic's renowned *Scene for a New Heritage* Trilogy (2004–6) are set between 2045 and 2071, visualising different encounters with a communist monument at the memorial park at Petrova Gora, Croatia, and speculating on how the meanings of history and monuments change over time.

Roy Ascott Art and Technoetic Evolution: When the Mind outgrows the Body

Sat 19 Sept 2pm

Free

Artist and theorist Roy Ascott gives a presentation on the recent ideas informing his Technoetics art practice, that has grown out of his long-term research into cybernetic and 'telematic' art.

Sept (date tbc)

Will Holder

Neologisms Workshop

Free / Booking required, call 0117 917 2300 / 01

A language workshop for young people led by the designer, writer and editor Will Holder for constructing brand new words or 'neologisms', inspired by R. Buckminster Fuller's technique for synthesizing existing words to generate names for new concepts and designs.

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