Posthuman: Exploring the obsolescence of the corporeal body in contemporary art.

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Posthuman: Exploring the Obstorporeal Body in Contempora

By Ryan P. O'Donnell

2011, VOL. 3 NO. 08 | PG. 1/1

As technology progresses, the rift between org mechanic is increasingly made more obscure. then ask whether the corporeal body is perha the human corporeal body "obsolete"? An arti

provides a site for abstraction and considerati

Artists and culture producers now not only we mechanical, effectively exploring the obsoleso

Corporeal obsolescence is in itself a contention for public debate. When discussing transhum these artists have transcended the role of cult scientific roles they wish to question. Artists scientific advancement in their art, but also u advancements they previously commented u

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deals heavily with "the obsolete body". The ar the sense that it can be discarded entirely. He new technological environment in which we is obsolete in the sense that it is no longer cor

A key practitioner in posthumanist art is the *I*

Decapitation, Dismemberment, and Defecation

evolutionary endpoint where the next logical mechanic.



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life form is necessary to realise the organism's human subject are constructed rather than go dictates that the notion of postevolution is or

Stelarc's work can then be viewed linearly in l earlier performance work, as demonstrated in the artist's body suspended from hooks throu branches. These early performances work to f through the abject stretching and tearing of sl then, demonstrates the human being's origin realised, the second layer of performance is m bodily reflexes. Pain is controlled, and the bod Following this are performances such as *Stret* favour of electrodes and a third robotic arm. T limits through suspension, but the body has a evolved artificially, and has incorporated the performances work to problematize the body necessary human-machine incorporation.⁵ T brings to light corporeal obsolescence in the s in the environment it has created for itself.

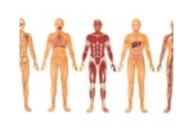
As obsolescence has now been established as this essay will now discuss further postevoluti elective corporeal augmentation.

Elaborating further upon a point raised in the

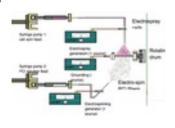
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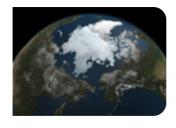


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postevolutionary strategy—as shown previou technologies in the field of biomimetics, or bi being developed to either enhance or replace such as Stelarc's *Third Arm* or *Exoskeleton* deprosthetic augmentation can be seen in his colonical extra Ear 1/4 Scale. In this prusing human cells. This prosthesis is not so no purpose is not to replace a lost organ—it has body's normal function. This prosthesis demonstrates demonstrates through excess. Furthermore, the traditional reproduction. Living tissue has been human body part. This semi-living artefact defineds to occur within or as part of the corporation.

This leads on to tissue art and transgenic art. If the use of living tissue as a means of artistic exim the public sphere, considering bioethics. *S* Guatemalan worry dolls inside a bioreactor, pencouraged to write their worries to the Dolls corporeal body, calling into question its obsol contemporary anxiety, especially pertaining t

Transgenic art serves as a final means of trans works closely with genetic material itself, mar of the Enigma⁹, Kac has genetically-engineere Petunia flower. Where Stelarc's work aims to renvironment, Kac takes a different postevolut natural surroundings, incorporating human e developing mechanical means to work agains assimilate human forms. Prosthetics, tissue aracknowledge corporeal obsolescence, whilst a

Initially the body may have appeared obsoleted case. One must ask whether the body is really reached an evolutionary endpoint. It is actual and understands reality and the terrain it is at at the centre of our relation to the world and experience space". ¹⁰

Patricia Piccinini's work holds an ambivalent that it is no longer relevant to oppose the artithrough which the cutting edge of technology dependence between natural and artificial, m Piccinini does not proclaim the obsolescence so that technology is just becoming increasin presented with what appears to be an artificial however are as artificial as the next.

The notion of an obsolete body has led artists form. Our push for a utopian body has led to t body is not necessarily obsolete, it is just a ma

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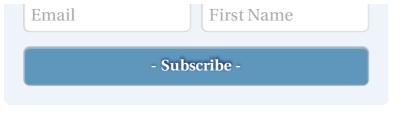
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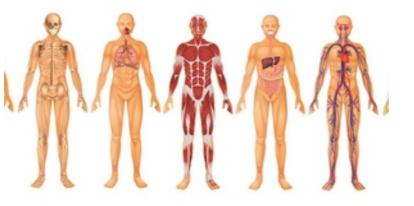
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