

Objects of the Misanthropocene, a Time Travelling Exhibition of Insouciant Objects from the Museum of Beyond.

Online: August 2020.

Temporary Exhibition: UCL Slade & Institute of Archaeology (*if possible*) from October 2020-October 2021 (*although may be later*).

Co-curated by Dean Sully (UCL Slade Scientist in Residence 2019-2020) & Cecilie Graveson, Visual Artist and Curator (www.ceciliegravesen.com).

Project curators: Ariel Li & Katherine Beckwith UCL IoA MA Museum Studies

A series of FABulation and FABrication sessions will be arranged to construct (virtual & physical) objects for a temporary exhibition that purports to be from a future museum. These time travelling objects will be manufactured to reflect archaeological and geological objects from the future of the Anthropocene, sent back to our present. This will respond to certain future worlds established by authors and artists that provide a critical gap to gaze at our more-than-human world.

This will involve Archaeology, Conservation, and Museum Studies students from the Institute of Archaeology and those interested from the Slade, Architects Association & Goldsmiths.

You are invited to participate in discussions about these future worlds, and also discuss whether you are able to fabricate an exhibit for the time travelling exhibition (which can be done individually or as teams).

*The first online FABrication workshop will be **7 May 2.00-4.00 pm***

This exhibition will form part of this year's UCL Slade Scientist in Residence 2019-2020 projects. It is an experimental lab between IoA and the Slade, utilising speculative fabulation as a means of future making/world building, in testing the use of speculative design methods in heritage practice.

It aims to question the authority of museum exhibitions in truth production about past and future worlds by presenting a time travelling exhibition of objects from the future.

This temporary exhibition will provide a certain future perspective on our uncertain present. The archaeological and geological artefacts of the Misanthropocene will be fabricated (through a series of online Slade/IoA workshops May-October 2020) to reflect different predicted futures found in literature about the Anthropocene. These insouciantly fabricated exhibits will be presented as a selection of time travelling objects loaned from the Museum of Beyond in the University at the end of the longest pier in the world (this is one part of a larger speculative design project developed by Goldsmith's at Rhyl, North Wales).

Preferred Object list (a few examples of the objects to be loaned for this temporary exhibition):

fabulations of future worlds and the fabrication of exhibits that travel between them.



Survival Lottery ticket: Remains of 21 Century National Lottery ticket: Assumed to provide historic evidence that even in the age of affluence people were required to enter into a survival lottery to compete for the resources required for their basic survival (Mulgan 2011).

Anthropocene epoch stratotype specimen: Geological epochs are defined in relation to a global stratotype section that identifies a boundary that marks long term shifts in global geological process (Yusoff 2018, 28). The fossilisation of global human agency on a planetary scale identified as nano sedimentation of bio agriculture traces (domesticate

plants, synthetic fertilisers, and pesticides), fossil carbon particulate layers, radioisotope markers, anthroglomerates (cement, plastics, faunal middens). Circa 1900 CE +/- 300a (Yusoff 2018).

Archaeological remains of an iPad: the defining symbol of Pre-Apocalypse hubris and blasphemy: the serpent's apple with a bite taken out of it. "Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall yet touch it, lest ye die" (Harris 2019). '....His face wears an appalling expression of idiotic ecstasy as he bites into the apple...the sweet diseased knowledge" (Burroughs 1981, 265).

Archaeological remains of Canned food: Preserved meat from the slaughter of non-human animals, the consumption of human meat becomes more commonplace in a time where there are insufficient resources for all to survive (Mulgan 2011).

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