

## Showcase 2

### Technology: misuse and malfunction

Technological development has enabled humans to adapt to changing circumstances and offers new opportunities to reinvent the way we face the challenges of living in our human world. The tsunamis of technological change become normalised as part of our transformed everyday lives. But the optimism of progress is underlain by enduring concerns about what is sacrificed in return. This exposes the lie of believing we can continue to exploit nature's treasury in a world without limits, without concern for the resultant injustices caused by the depletion of finite planetary resources.

**Can we continue to believe in technology as a solution to our current crisis?**

Failures in the promise of technology prompt fears of apocalyptic futures. Devastating events, such as the nuclear power plant meltdown at Chernobyl in 1986, diminish our belief in the inevitable certainty and security of future worlds. It creates fear about how the future will seamlessly emerge as a familiar world from our present.

**What happens when technology does not live up to its promise, goes wrong, or ends up in the wrong hands?**

The exhibits in this showcase present a retrospective view of the adverse consequences of technological catastrophe in the Misanthropocene. They imagine the possible consequences of technological promises in worlds in which we have used up the limited resources. The exhibits provide evidence of the failure of technologies (from human hubris, error, and malicious tampering) experienced in future worlds.

Objects of the

**Misanthropocene**

A Time-Travelling Exhibition from the Illegal Museum of Beyond

Free Exhibition

Institute of Archaeology &  
Slade School of Fine Art

