



NEUERSCHEINUNG IM KEHRER VERLAG

Matthieu Gafsou **H+** Transhumanism(s)

Text von David le Breton
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H+ ist eine Serie über die Transhumanismus-Bewegung und alle Arten von Modifizierungen und Optimierungen des Körpers

Die Anhänger des Transhumanismus (abgekürzt: H+) streben eine Transformation des Menschen und die Überwindung körperlicher und geistiger Grenzen durch den Einsatz von komplexen, allgemein zugänglichen Technologien an.

In seiner Serie H+ erforscht Matthieu Gafsou diese weltweite philosophische Bewegung und alle Arten von Modifizierungen und Optimierungen des Körpers: Prothesen, Exoskelette, Implantate, Neuroprothetik, Wearables, Nootropika, Nahrungsergänzung, Anti-Ageing, Biopolitik, Body Hacking, Gentechnik, Kryonik. Der Schweizer Fotograf vermischt dokumentarische Ansätze mit allegorischen Darstellungen und zeigt, dass das transhumanistische Denken bereits Einzug in unser Leben gehalten hat.

»Matthieu Gafsou's beautiful, disturbing images portray the dissolution of technologies and people, the erasure of former ontological boundaries. Sometimes, even, sensitive humanity, with the unavailability of its face-giving body, seems intrusive in view of the objects' aesthetic perfection, their impeccable design. These weightless objects prefigure a world where the human seems superfluous, irrelevant. And from page to page, the work unfolds the mystery of these technical and scientific advances that are disrupting social ties, especially since information technology became banal. Matthieu Gafsou creates no sharp contrasts, but his photographs' frozen look, their absence of shadow, to be precise, induces an unease that is occasionally intensified by the captions that accompany them.«

– Aus dem Text von David Le Breton

Matthieu Gafsou (*1981) studierte an der Universität von Lausanne Filmwissenschaft, Geschichte und Philosophie. Seine Werke wurden in Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen gezeigt und befinden sich in öffentlichen und privaten Sammlungen, zum Beispiel im Musée de l'Elysée, im Musée d'Art du Valais, im Mudac, in der Fondation Hermès, der Fondation HSBC pour la photographie und der Michaelis School of Fine Art. Seine Serie *Only God Can Judge Me* erschien 2014 im Kehrler Verlag.

David Le Breton ist Professor für Soziologie an der Universität Straßburg sowie Mitglied des *Institut Universitaire de France* und des *Institut d'Études Avancées de l'université de Strasbourg* (USIAS). Er ist unter anderem Autor von: *Anthropologie du corps et modernité* (Puf), *L'adieu au corps* (Métaillié), *Disparaître de soi. Une tentation contemporaine* (Métaillié), und *Marcher. Eloge des chemins et de la lenteur* (Métaillié). Kürzlich hat er außerdem *Sensing the World. An Anthropology of the Senses* (Bloomsbury) veröffentlicht.

Ausstellungen

Only God Can Judge Me
Fotoleggendo, Rom
08. – 10.06.2018

H+
Les Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles 2018
02.07. – 23.09.2018

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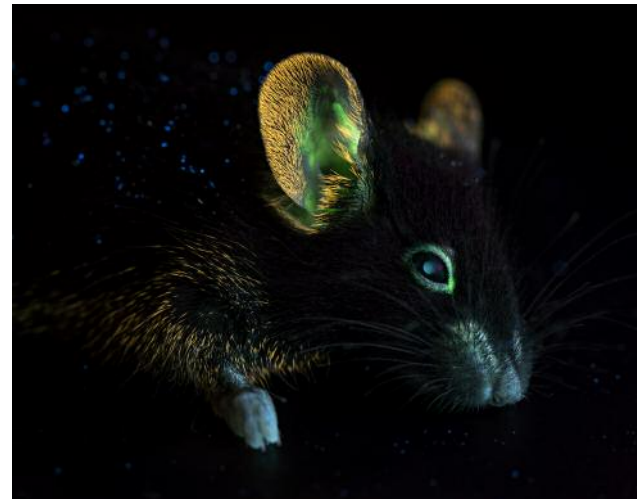
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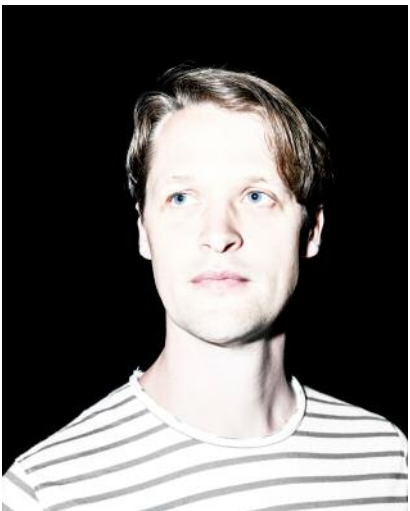
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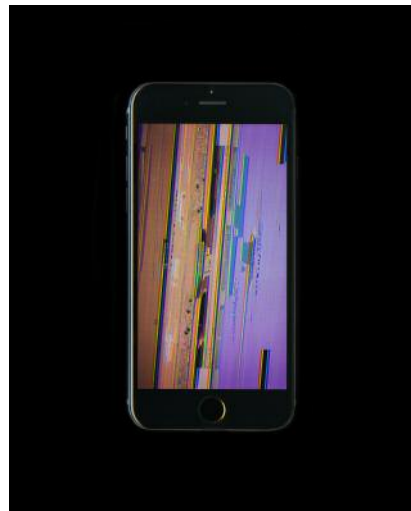
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Bildunterschriften

1. Neil Harbisson considers himself a cyborg. Afflicted with achromatopsy, a rare form of color blindness, he has had a prosthesis called Eyeborg implanted into his skull that converts colors into sound waves. Mr. Harbisson advocates creative enhancement of the human and sometimes distances himself from transhumanism, which, he thinks, is stuck in stereotyped or commercial depictions. His view is more that of an artist than a disciple of technoscience. He takes pride in being the first human to appear with a prosthesis in a passport photo.
Munich, July 15, 2015
2. [...]
3. Considered one of the earliest modern prosthetists, Swiss physician Jean-André Venel (1740–1791) developed a corset for people with scoliosis, a curvature of the spine. The idea was to treat a malformation or disability. Technically, the corset is an orthotic device, which compensates for an absent or deficient function, as opposed to a prosthesis, which replaces a function. Orthotics are the forerunners of the exoskeleton, the development of which is accelerating for civilian and military uses.
4. Virtual reality (VR) allows us to slip into a real but non-physical new space. The technology makes it possible to understand the brain better and improve cognitive skills. In the future, it will be used to treat neurological disorders. “Virtual reality is merely popularizing the idea of offering a product deprived of its substance, real core and material resistance... [It] is a reality that really isn’t one. When the end of the virtualisation process is reached, we will start perceiving that ‘real reality’ is itself a virtual entity.” (Slavoj Žižek, *La Subjectivité à venir, Essais critiques*, trans. François Théron, Paris: Flammarion, Libres Champs, 2006, p. 18.)
Cognitive neuroscience laboratory, Geneva, Biotech campus, March 22, 2017
5. This exoskeleton can be used for therapeutic purposes or to augment the wearer’s motor skills. Many companies sell such products, in general as support for a strenuous activity or to treat physical handicaps. But DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is working on the most spectacular exoskeleton prototype, capable of turning a soldier into a nearly inexhaustible war machine.
6. Bioluminescence in the *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish has allowed scientists to make advances using transgenesis, the transfer of a gene from a cell of one species to a cell of another. Mice that have received the gene responsible for bioluminescence in the *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish glow when exposed to UV rays. Researchers use this property as a marker allowing them to analyze the growth of tissues, organs, tumors, etc.
Freiburg, March 30, 2017
7. [...]
8. Kriorus’s brand new facility. The vats contain cryogenized brains and whole bodies awaiting the day when science can wake them up.
9. Hannes Sjöblad, activist and co-founder of then Swedish biohacking organization BioNyfiken, is a leading promoter of transhumanism in Europe. In Paris in 2016, he held the first Implant Party, where candidates received their microchip implants in public. He earns his living by giving companies strategic advice about technology and lecturing on the “enhanced human.”
Paris, Futur en Seine, June 30, 2017
10. In 2007, Steve Jobs launched the iPhone, which drastically increased our dependency on machines. Smartphones are now considered memory prostheses.
11. American professor Robert Wilson Chester Ettinger, a transhumanist trailblazer, wrote *The Prospect of Immortality*, the bible of believers in immortality and a sort of cryogenics guidebook. He thinks “natural man” is deficient: Cryonics is the key to unlocking and making the most of his full potential.
12. [...]