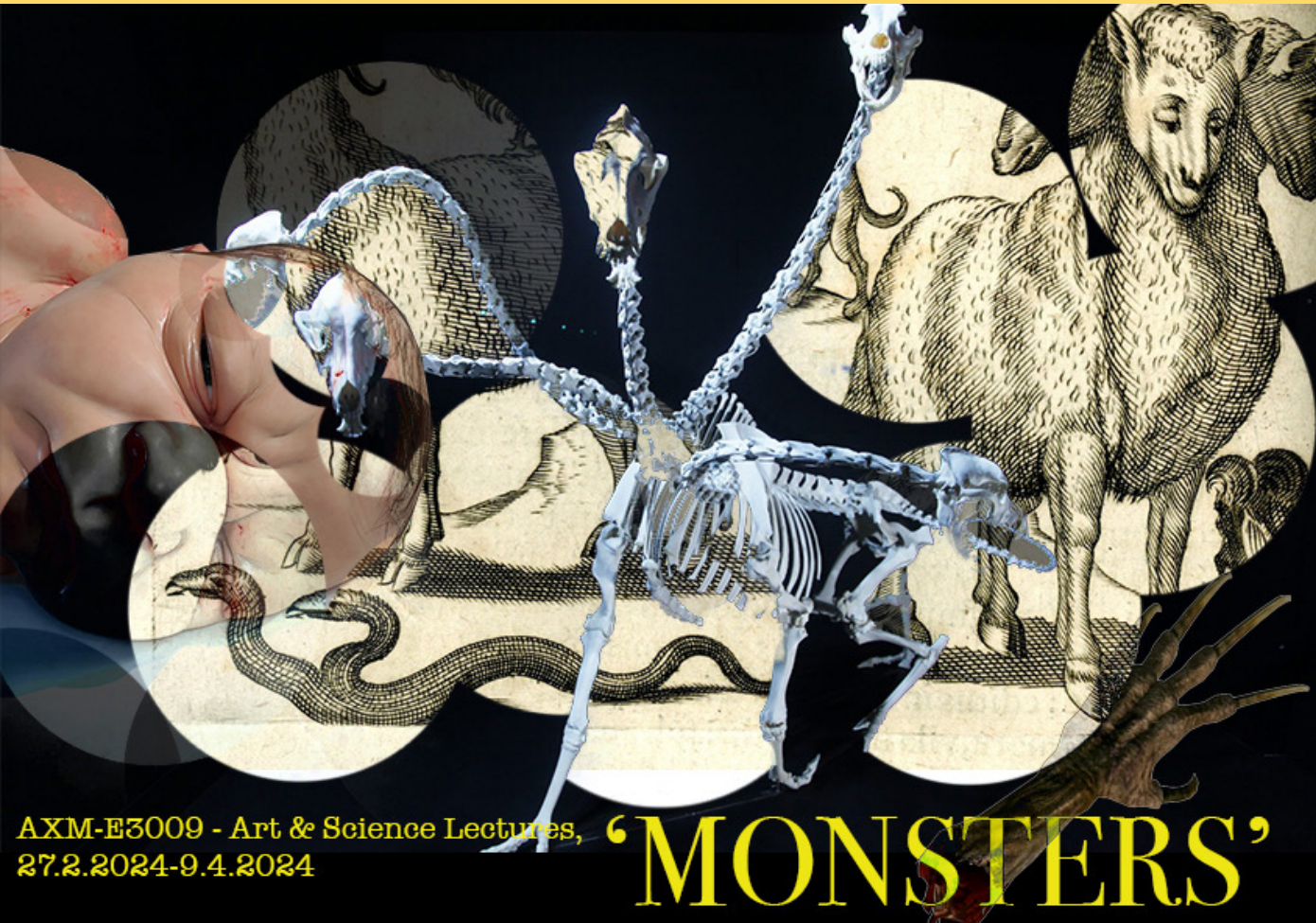


A content warning / SV – sisältö varoitus

The content and discussion in this course will engage with MONSTERS; how we define them, how we use them in comparison to normativity ('normal'). Some of the materials can be emotionally and intellectually challenging. I want to flag especially images that represent various categories of monsters, as well as well-known practices in history of science and today.

I have no control over visiting lecturers' presentations – but many of them work in the arts and will mainly discuss their own work.

I wish we can do our best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with potentially sometimes challenging content.



Introduction to the Art & Science course and this spring's topic:

MONSTERS

The tight time schedule of TODAY:

- ***My lecture – (due to the evaluations) 17:15 -18***
- ***Info on the course and its requirements 18 – 18:20*** (readings, lectures by visitors, films, tasks to do. Also found in MyCourses.)
- ***Break 18:20-18:40***
- ***2nd lecture Marco Donnarumma + discussion 18:40-20***

Art & Science:

Bioart
Biological arts
Biotech Art

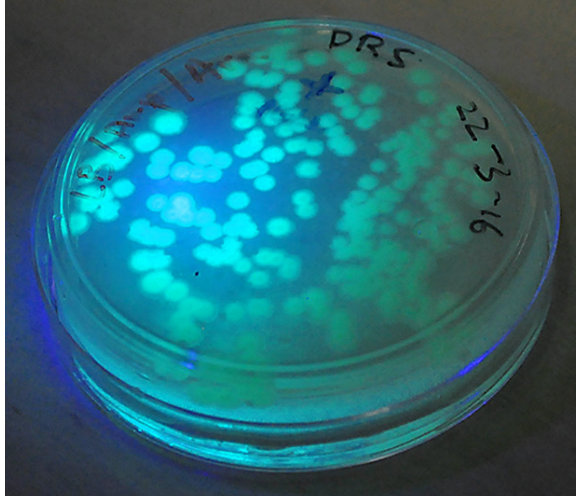
Environmental art
Ecoart

Art & Technology
New Media Art / Media Art
Sound Art

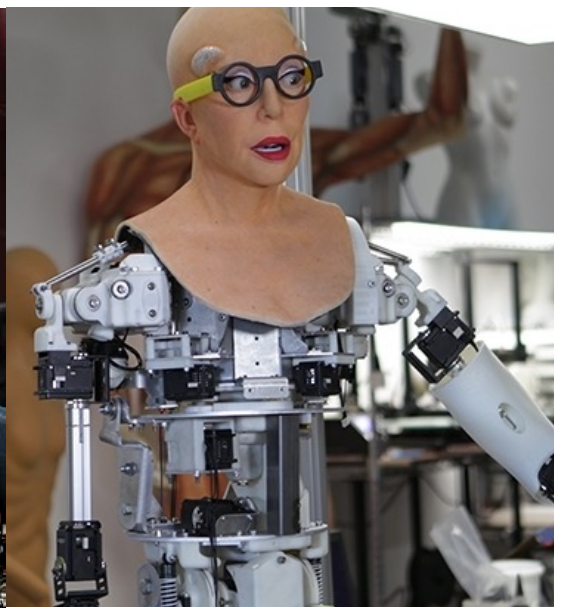


Kira O'Reilly performing in the lab

Eduardo Kac

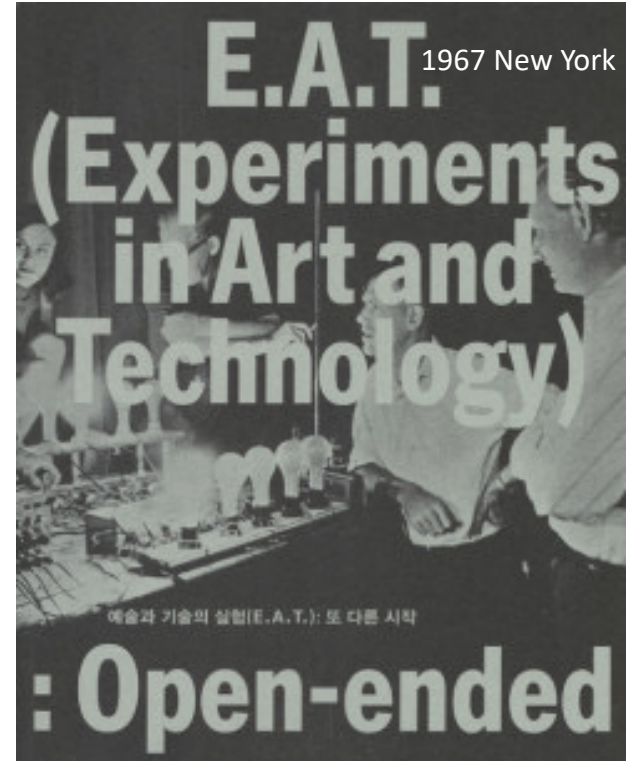


Orlan

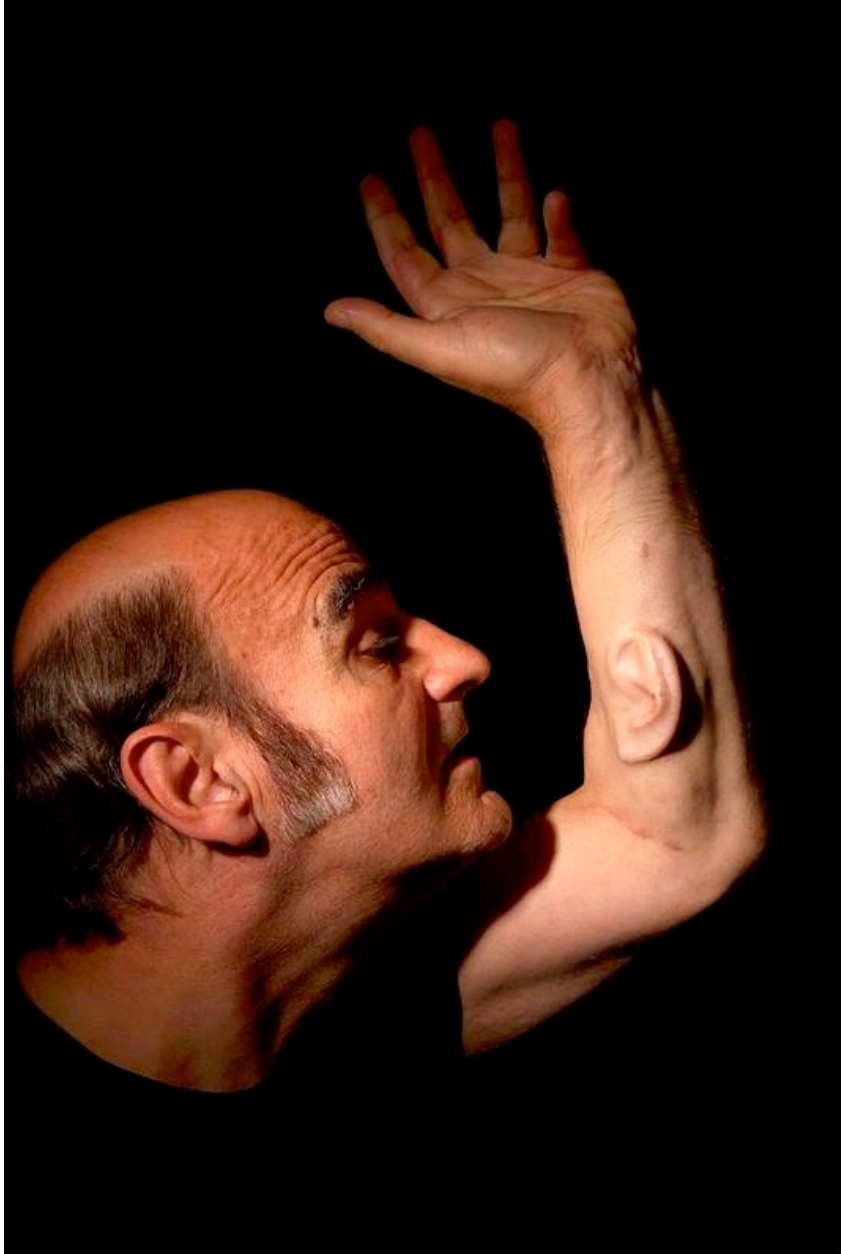


© Burkhard Maus

In the 1990's cosmetic surgery as performance+video / Orlan



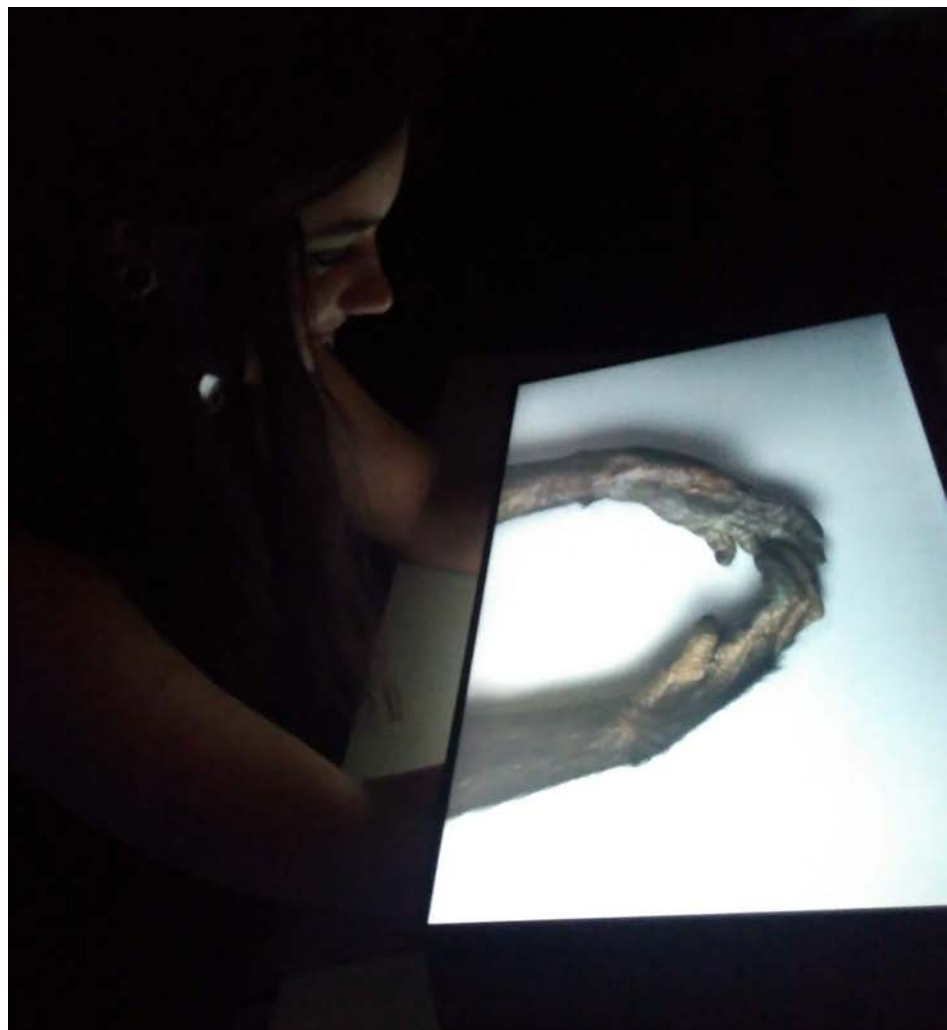
transgenic organisms > gmo > synthetic biology > crispr cas9 >...



Stelarc / Ear-On-Arm
-new capacities, new senses



Robotic arm;
-"repair" of the body



Potentiality for Love ; a part of the installation

Eija-Liisa Ahtila 2018

https://crystaleye.fi/eija-liisa_ahtila



Mirror therapy

- neuroscience, neuroplasticity



Edward Steichen's Delphiniums at
Museum Of Modern Art, NY, June 24, 1936



Edward Steichen,
Delphiniums, 1940, dye
imbibition process.

An array of George Gessert's Pacific Coast irises



George Gessert



Hybrid 440 (Hybrid 94 x Robert Smithson)
1990. First bloom 1993. Diameter 2.5"

Flowers that are dazzling in the wild may be inconspicuous in gardens. Visual competition from

Hybrid 487
(90-36F)
Hybrid 22 (83-7D) x
Hybrid 175 (86-47C)
First bloom 1995
Flower diameter 4"
Stem 16"



Died.

MONSTERS – part 1



Marco Donnarumma & co / Eingeweide 2018 > 'guts, inner organs'

Etymology of **MONSTER**

- early 14c., monstre, "malformed animal or human, creature afflicted with a birth defect," from Old French monstre, mostre "monster, monstrosity" (12c.), and directly from Latin monstrum "divine omen (especially one indicating misfortune), portent, sign; abnormal shape; monster, monstrosity"...
- "capable of being proved or made evident beyond doubt," c. 1400, from Old French demonstrable and directly from Latin demonstrabilis, from demonstrare "to point out, indicate, demonstrate," figuratively, "to prove, establish," from de- "entirely" (see [de-](#)) + monstrare "to point out, show," from monstrum "divine omen, wonder"...
- <https://www.etymonline.com/word/monster>

***Keywords and terms surrounding
the concept of 'a monster':***

1 UNCANNY

2 UNCANNY VALLEY

3 CYBORG

--

4 FREAK

5 MUTANT, mutation

6 BESTIARY

1 UNCANNY

Freud, S. (1999). The “Uncanny”. In S. Freud (Ed.), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XVII (1917-1919): An Infantile Neurosis and Other Works* (pp. 217-256). London: Vintage. (Originally published in 1919)



1 UNCANNY

“an **uncanny** effect often arises when the boundary between fantasy and reality is blurred, when we are faced with the reality of something that we have until now considered imaginary, when a symbol takes on the full function and significance of what it symbolizes”

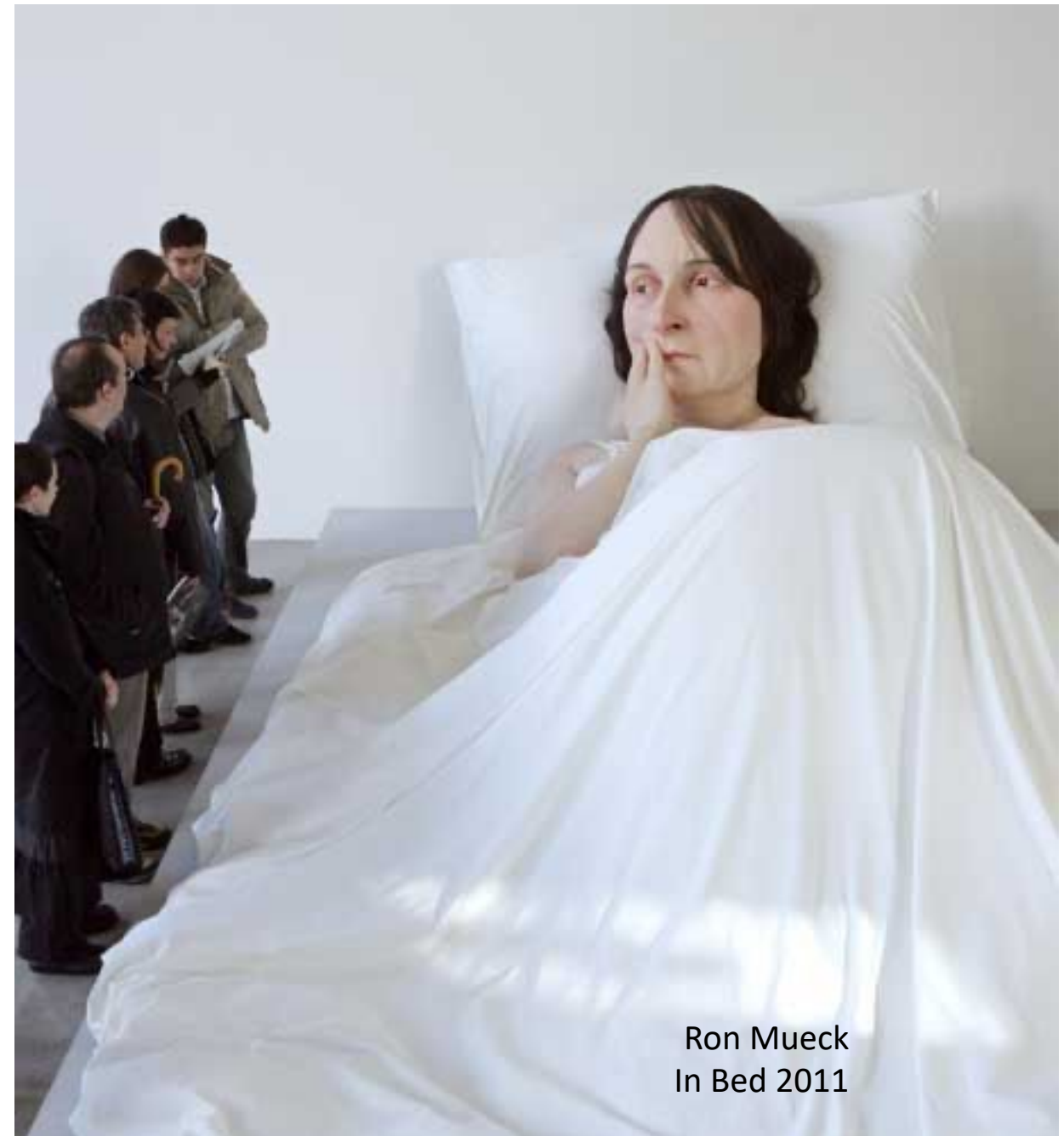
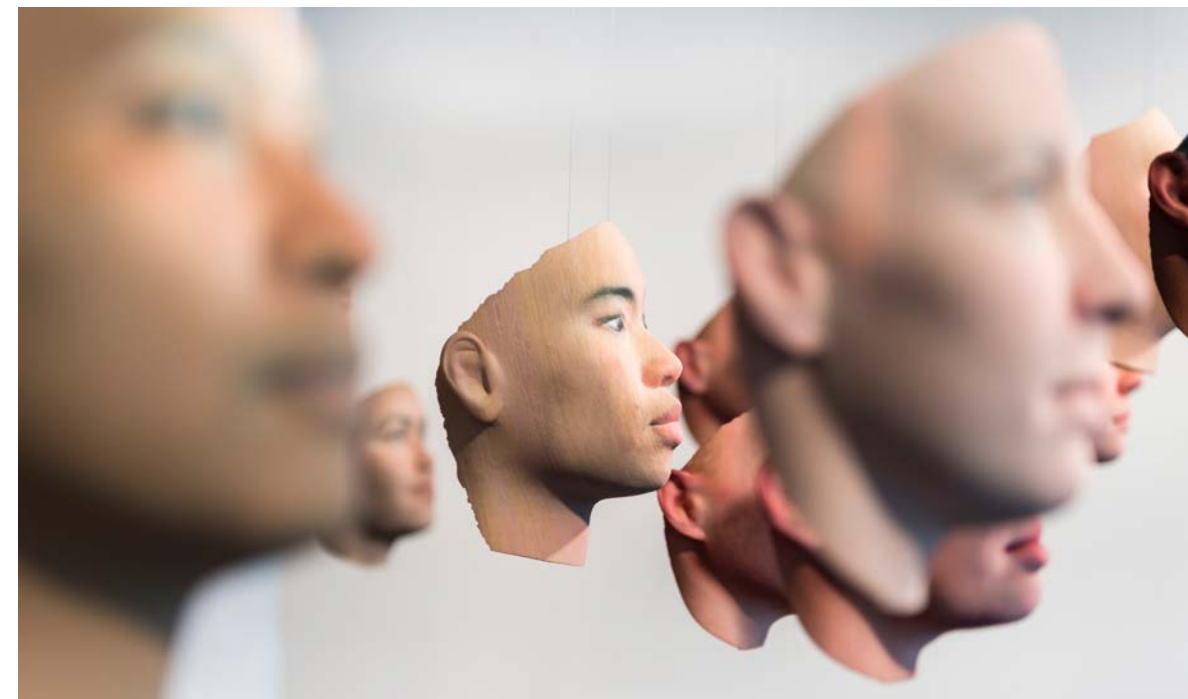
(Freud 1919)

Freud, S. (1999). The “Uncanny”. In S. Freud (Ed.), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XVII (1917-1919): An Infantile Neurosis and Other Works* (pp. 217-256). London: Vintage. (Originally published in 1919)





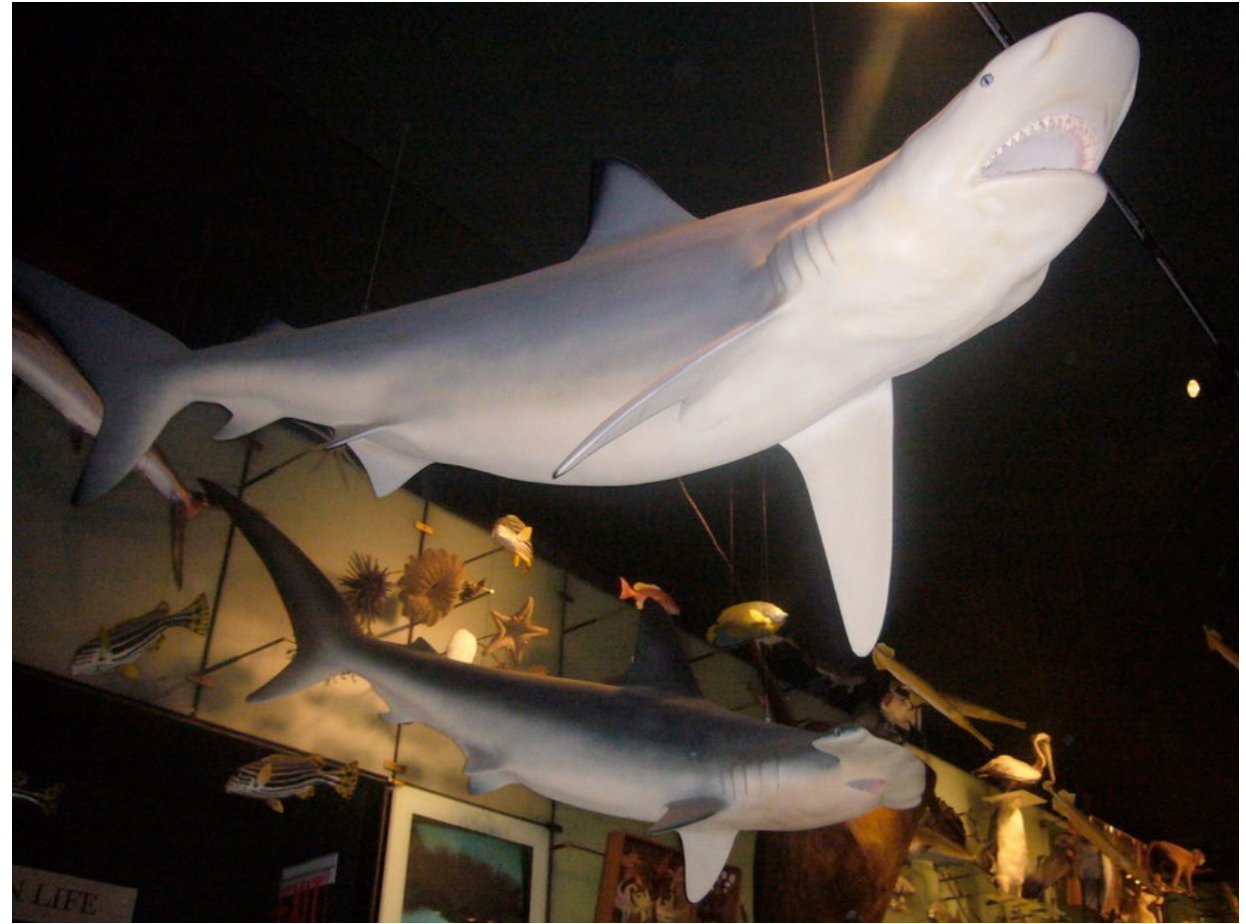
Heather Dewey-Hagborg
Probably Chelsea 2017



Ron Mueck
In Bed 2011

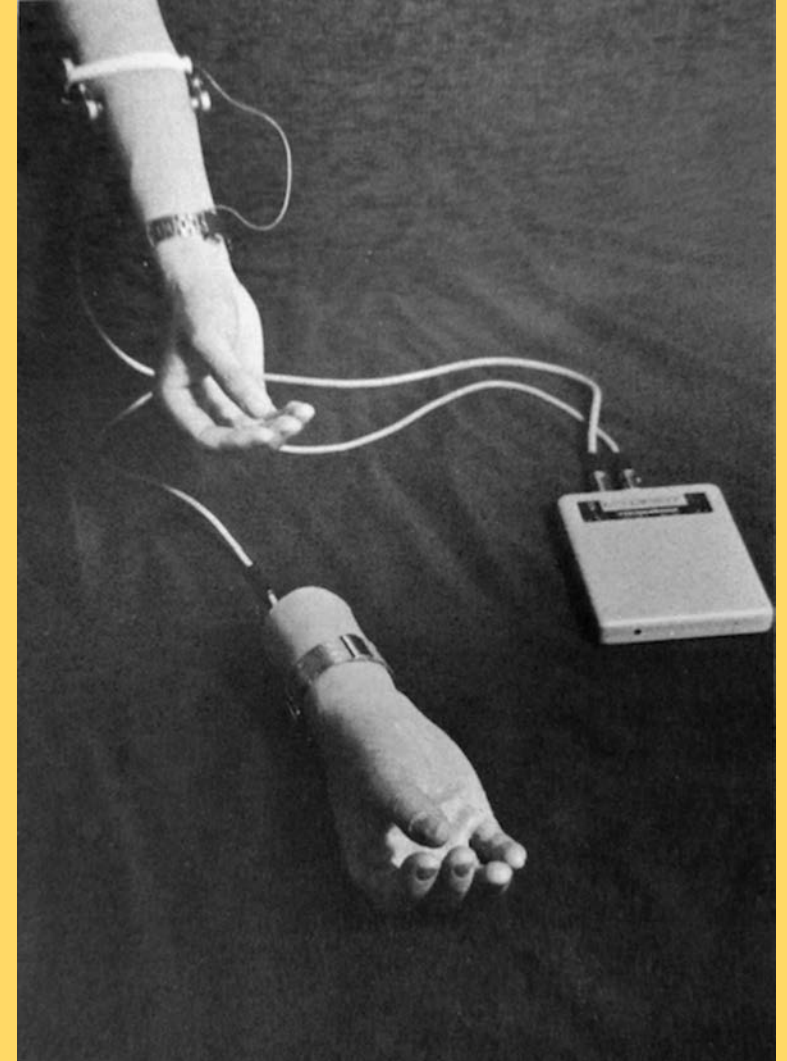


Damien Hirst 1991
*The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind
of Someone Living*

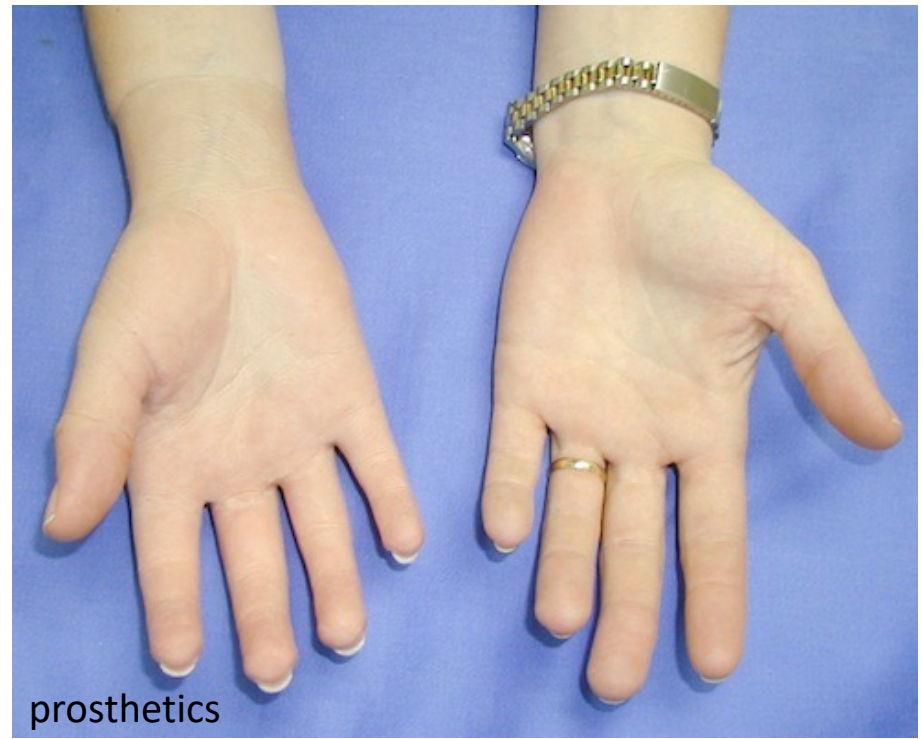


Natural history museum stuffed sharks on display

2 UNCANNY VALLEY

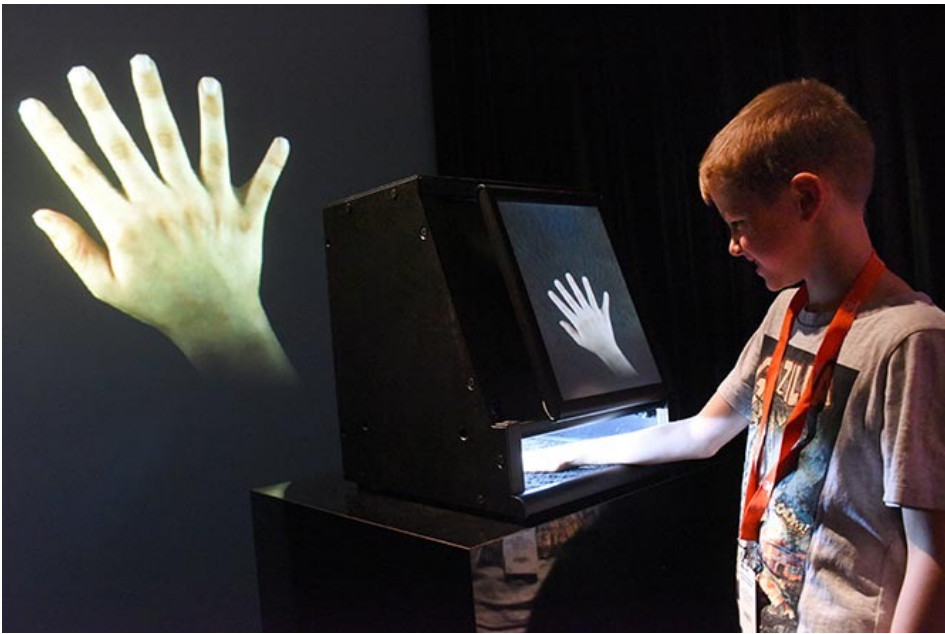


Mori, Masahiro. "The Uncanny Valley." *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine* 19 , no. 2 (2012): 98-100. -Original article published in Japanese in 1970.



Masahiro Mori 1970 THE UNCANNY VALLEY





HAND by Golan Levin, Chris Sugrue, Kyle McDonald, 2014



BINA48 by Hanson Robotics

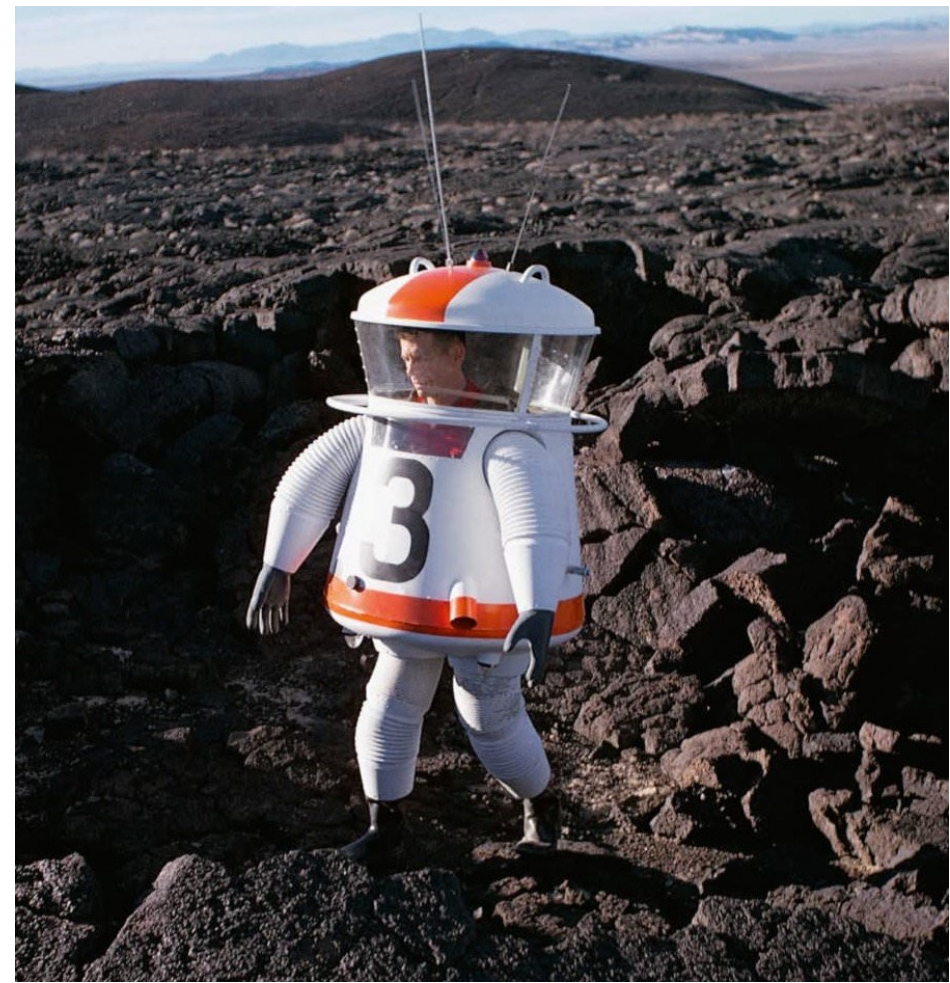
3 CYBORG

Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century," in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature* (New York; Routledge, 1991), pp.149-181
(classic feminist reading)

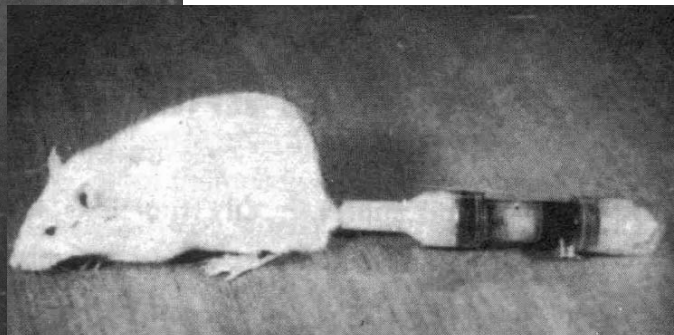
Warwick, Kevin (2014). The Cyborg Revolution. *NanoEthics* 8 (3):263-273.
(Science & technology paper)



Clynès & Kline,
Coined the term 'cyborg'
1960 in an article *Cyborgs
and Space*



NASA testing an early space suit design in the Mojave
Desert (1962)



HIS MISSION...

STOP THE INVASION OF THE CYBORGS!



HALF HUMAN...
HALF MACHINE!
PROGRAMMED
TO KILL!



CYBORG 2087

COLOR

STARRING
MICHAEL RENNIE · CO-STARRING
KAREN STEELE · WENDELL COREY · WARREN STEVENS · EDUARD FRANZ · Featuring
HARRY CAREY, Jr.

Directed by FRANKLIN ADREON · Produced by EARLE LYON · Executive Producer FRED JORDAN · Screenplay by ARTHUR C. PIERCE

Presented by UNITED PICTURES CORPORATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH HAROLD GOLDMAN ASSOCIATES, INC. · Released by FEATURE FILM CORP. OF AMERICA



Neil Harbisson – antenna was installed in 2004



2018

<https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/these-wearable-robotic-arms-head-let-two-people-share-one-ncna905896>

2023



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_rEcu91yYY

MONSTERS – part 2

4 FREAK

Garland-Thomson, R. (2018). "From Wonder to Error: A Genealogy of Freak Discourse in Modernity," from *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*. In A. S. Mittman & M. Hensel (Eds.), *Classic Readings on Monster Theory* (pp. 117–128). Amsterdam University Press.

Etymology of **FREAK**

-1560s, "sudden and apparently causeless turn of mind," of unknown origin.

-The sense of "capricious notion" (1560s) and that of "unusual thing, fancy" (1784) preceded that of "abnormally developed individual or production" (first attested in **freak of nature**, 1839, which later was popular in variety show advertisements for bearded ladies, albinos, etc.; compare Latin *lusus naturæ*, which was used in English from 1660s). As "drug user" (usually appended to the name of the drug) it attested by 1945. The sense in **health freak**, **ecology freak**, etc. is attested from 1908 (originally Kodak freak "a camera buff"). **Freak show** is attested from 1887.

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/freak>

The term's original neutral connotation became entirely negative during the 20th century; therefore, freak with its literal meaning of "abnormally developed individual" is viewed purely as a pejorative today. However, the term is also recently used playfully to refer to an enthusiast or obsessive person.

- Garland-Thomson writes in her genealogy of the freak discourse: "Milton's *Lycidas* seems to have initiated freak into English in 1637 to mean a fleck of color. By the seventeenth century freak broadens to mean whimsy or fancy. Not until 1847 does the word become synonymous with human corporeal anomaly. (Garland-Thomson 2018)

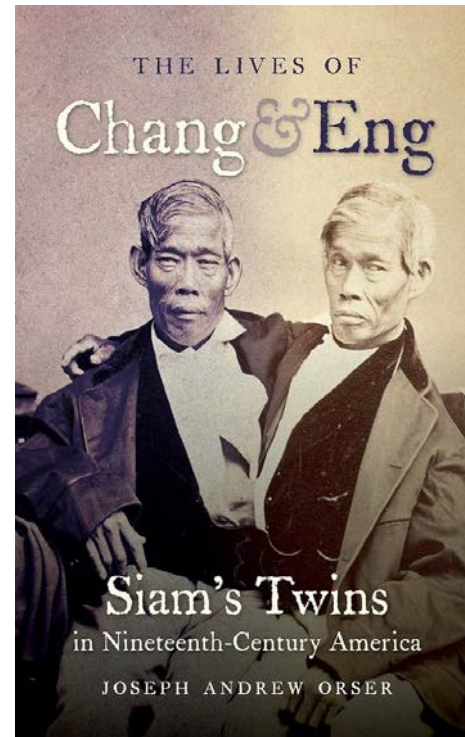
- Garland-Thomson also points that the word 'freak' was stigmatized enough by 1898 that the Barnum & Bailey Circus replaced it with the term "human curiosities" by 1903.

Chang & Eng 1811-1874

Born in Thailand in 1811, Chang and Eng Bunker toured as a curiosity act for three years before settling down in North Carolina. They married a pair of sisters and fathered 21 children.

Freak shows

16th century >>

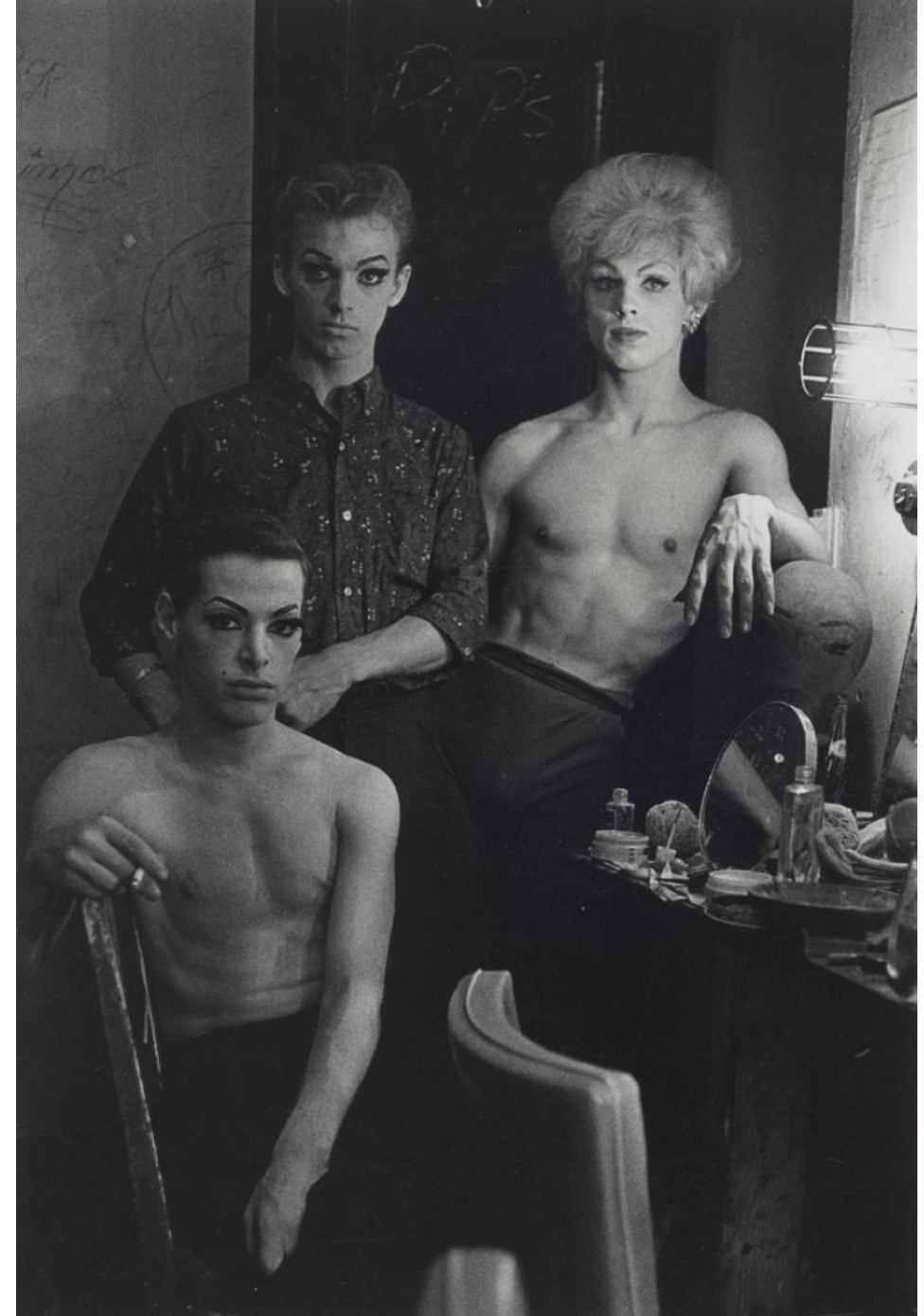


Teratology

Teratology *is* the study of malformations or serious deviations from the normal type in developing organisms <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/teratology>

Teras, Terata (plural) - an organism that is grossly abnormal in structure due to genetic or developmental causes. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/medical/teras>

MacCormack, P. (2020). ***Posthuman Teratology***. In J. A. Weinstock (Ed.), *The Monster Theory Reader* (Issue 2, pp. 522–539). University of Minneapolis Press.
<https://doi.org/10.5565/REV/BRUMAL.840>



Diane Arbus,
a photographer 1923-1971
> Photos from 1960's



Freak discourse: “wonder becomes error”

Garland-Thomson, R. (2018). “From Wonder to Error: A Genealogy of Freak Discourse in Modernity,” from *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*. In A. S. Mittman & M. Hensel (Eds.), *Classic Readings on Monster Theory* (pp. 117–128). Amsterdam University Press.

5 MUTANT, mutation

MUTANT

1900 in the biological sense, "individual or form which has arisen by or undergone (genetic) mutation," from Latin *mutantem* (nominative *mutans*) "changing," present participle of *mutare* "to change" (from PIE root [*mei-](#) (1) "to change, go, move"). In the science fiction sense, it is attested by 1954. As an adjective from 1903.

MUTATION

late 14c., *mutacioun*, "action or process of changing," from Old French *mutacion* (13c.), and directly from Latin *mutationem* (nominative *mutatio*) "a changing, alteration, a turn for the worse," noun of action from past-participle stem of *mutare* "to change" (from PIE root [*mei-](#) (1) "to change, go, move"). The genetics sense "process whereby heritable changes in DNA arise" is from 1894.

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/mutant>

My own interest in this topic is related to:

- intentional genetic manipulations of diverse organisms
 - human-made aesthetical choices impacting evolution
 - biotechnology's possibilities to modify organisms
 - cultural responses to science and technology developments
 - our continuing fascination with monsters
-
- the categorisation and our perception of what-is-a-monster is changing
 - can gene manipulated organisms (intentional mutations?) be called monsters? If yes, what kind of criteria they are based on?
 - do we have a (new/old) definition for normality?



Biologist Brandon Ballengee and artist Louis-Philippe Demers / **Artificial Mi[s]tosis 2010**

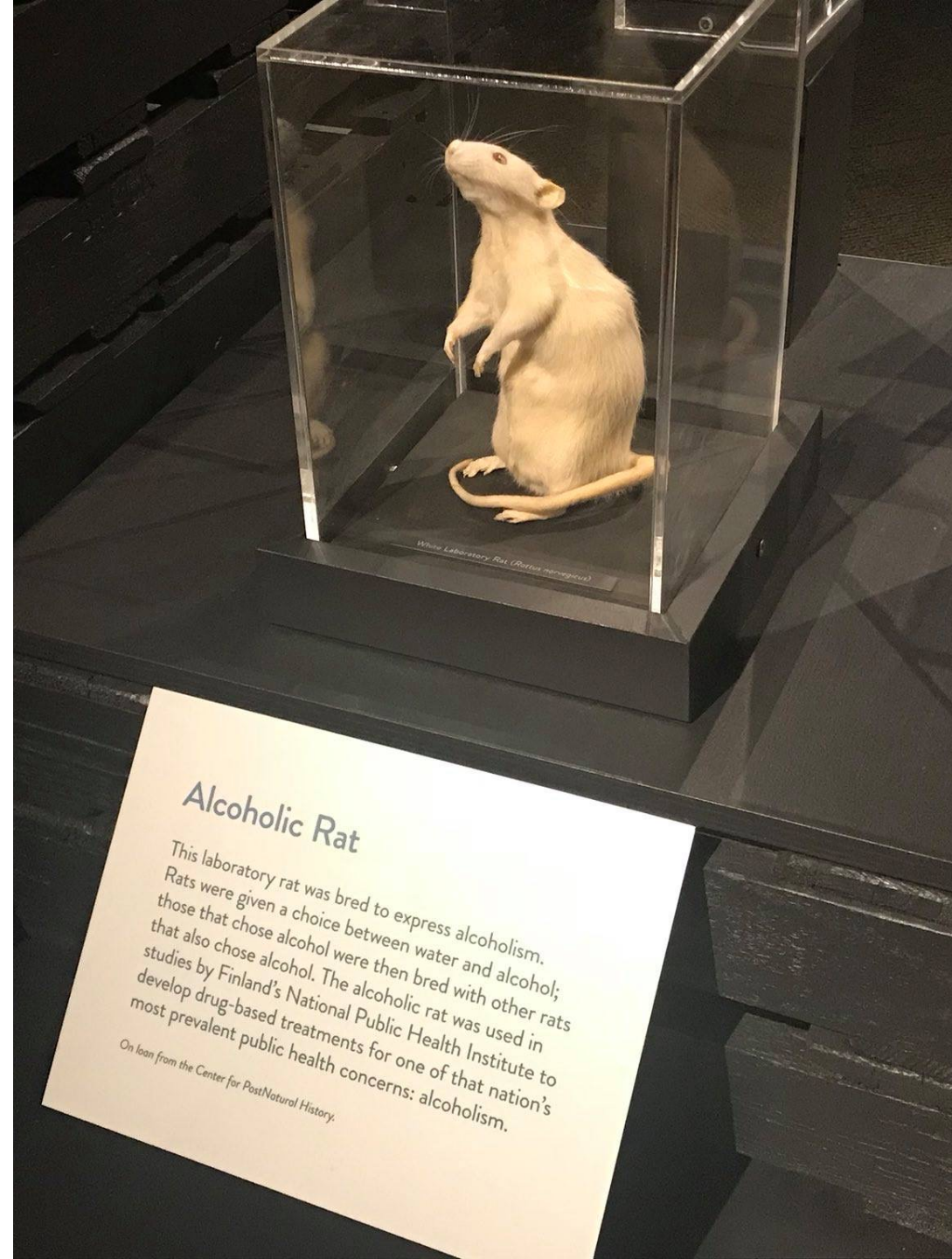
<https://www.behance.net/gallery/4477273/Artificial-Misstosis>



Freckles the BioSteel™ Goat



The Center for PostNatural History is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge relating to the complex interplay between culture, nature, and biotechnology. <https://www.postnatural.org/>



Alcoholic Rat

This laboratory rat was bred to express alcoholism. Rats were given a choice between water and alcohol; those that chose alcohol were then bred with other rats that also chose alcohol. The alcoholic rat was used in studies by Finland's National Public Health Institute to develop drug-based treatments for one of that nation's most prevalent public health concerns: alcoholism.

On loan from the Center for PostNatural History.



OncoMouse
Made in 1988 in the USA.

a)



b)



2016 - "The Power of Weak Radiation:
What the Nuclear Industry does not tell us



Hesse-Honegger C, Wallimann P (2008) *Malformation of true bug (Heteroptera): A phenotype field study on the possible influence of artificial low-level radioactivity.* Chemistry & Biodiversity 5(4): 499–539





Kathy High, *Embracing Animal* 2004-06, in which three transgenic lab rats, model HLA-B27, were given special housing and made available to the public's view.



Patrizia Piccini

The Carrier, 2012



Big Mother, 2005



Chimera

- a fire-breathing she-monster in Greek mythology having a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail
- an imaginary monster compounded of incongruous parts
- an illusion or fabrication of the mind
- an individual, organ, or part consisting of tissues of diverse genetic constitution. > A hybrid created through fusion of a sperm and an egg from different species is a chimera.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chimera>



Hybrid

- an offspring of parents that differ in genetically determined traits. The parents may be of different species, genera, or (rarely) families. The term hybrid, therefore, has a wider application than the terms **mongrel** or **crossbreed**, which usually refer to animals or plants resulting from a cross between two races, breeds, strains, or varieties of the same species.
- because of basic biological incompatibilities, sterile hybrids (those incapable of producing living young) such as the mule commonly result from crosses between species. Some interspecific hybrids, however, are fertile.

<https://www.britannica.com/science/hybrid>



A mule is a sterile hybrid of a male donkey and a female horse.

libris frib e ill. *Ornithologia anni. XLVn*



BESTIARY

1 : a medieval allegorical or moralizing work on the appearance and habits of real or imaginary animals.

2

A: a collection of descriptions or representations of real or imaginary animals

B : an array of real humans or literary characters often having symbolic significance

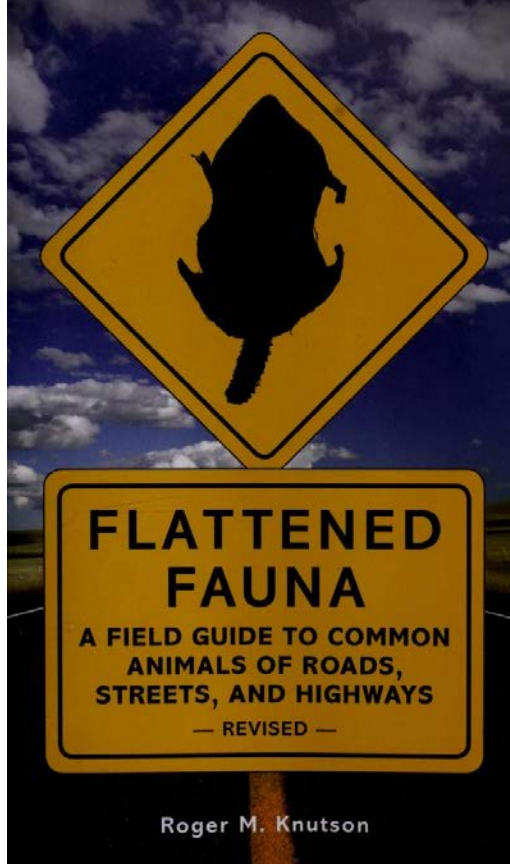
3 : an unusual or whimsical collection



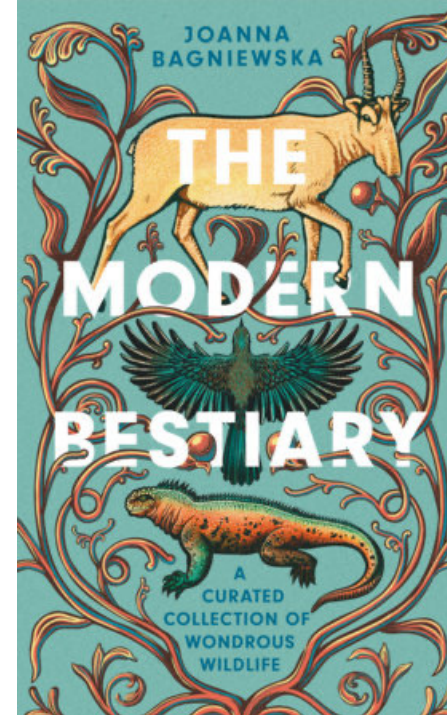
Examples:

Aberdeen Bestiary - first listed in 1542 in the inventory of the Old Royal Library at the Palace of Westminster

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/bestiary/ms24/>



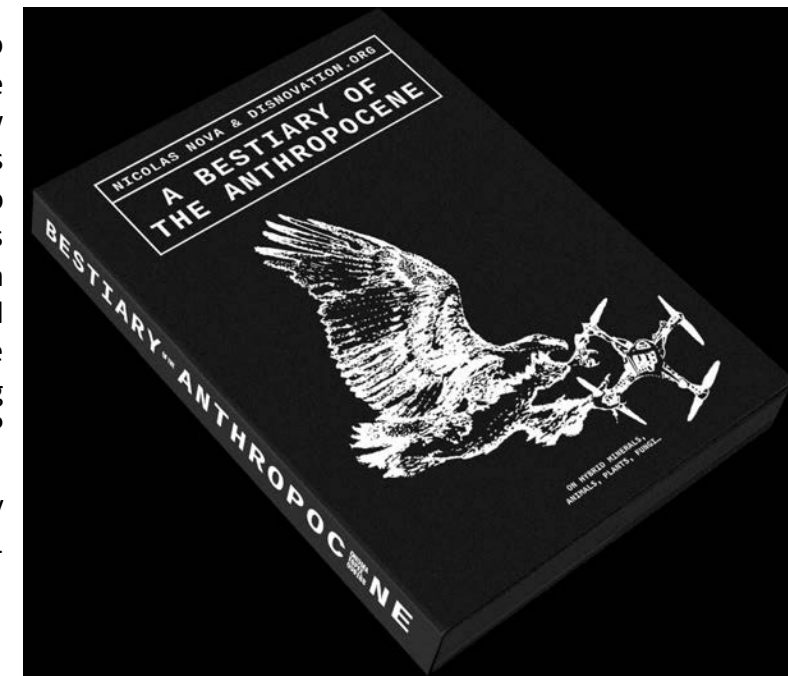
Flattened Fauna, Revised: A Field Guide to Common Animals of Roads, Streets, and Highways -by Roger M. Knutson 2013



The Modern Bestiary – A curated collection of wondrous wildlife -by Joanna Bagniewska 2022

A BESTIARY OF THE ANTHROPOCENE seeks to capture this precise moment when the biosphere and technosphere merge and mesh into one new hybrid body. What happens when technologies and their unintended consequences become so ubiquitous that it is difficult to define what is “natural” or not? What does it mean to live in a hybrid environment made of organic and synthetic matter? What new specimens are currently populating our planet at the beginning of the 21st century?

A Bestiary of The Anthropocene by Nicolas Nova & Disnovation.org 2021



[https://www.somerset
house.org.uk/whats-
on/the-horror-show](https://www.somerset
house.org.uk/whats-
on/the-horror-show)
2023 Somerset House

