COG IN THE MACHINE

a series of illustrated
scenes picturing a dialogue
of our posthuman future

✳ abstract

'Cog in the Machine' is an illustrative study that aims to contribute to the narrative and dialogue surrounding biotechnology and posthumanism through visual arts, as a way of posing its own set of speculations and visualisations of the future.

It aims to manifest in a series of illustrated scenes that paints a dialogue of our posthuman future
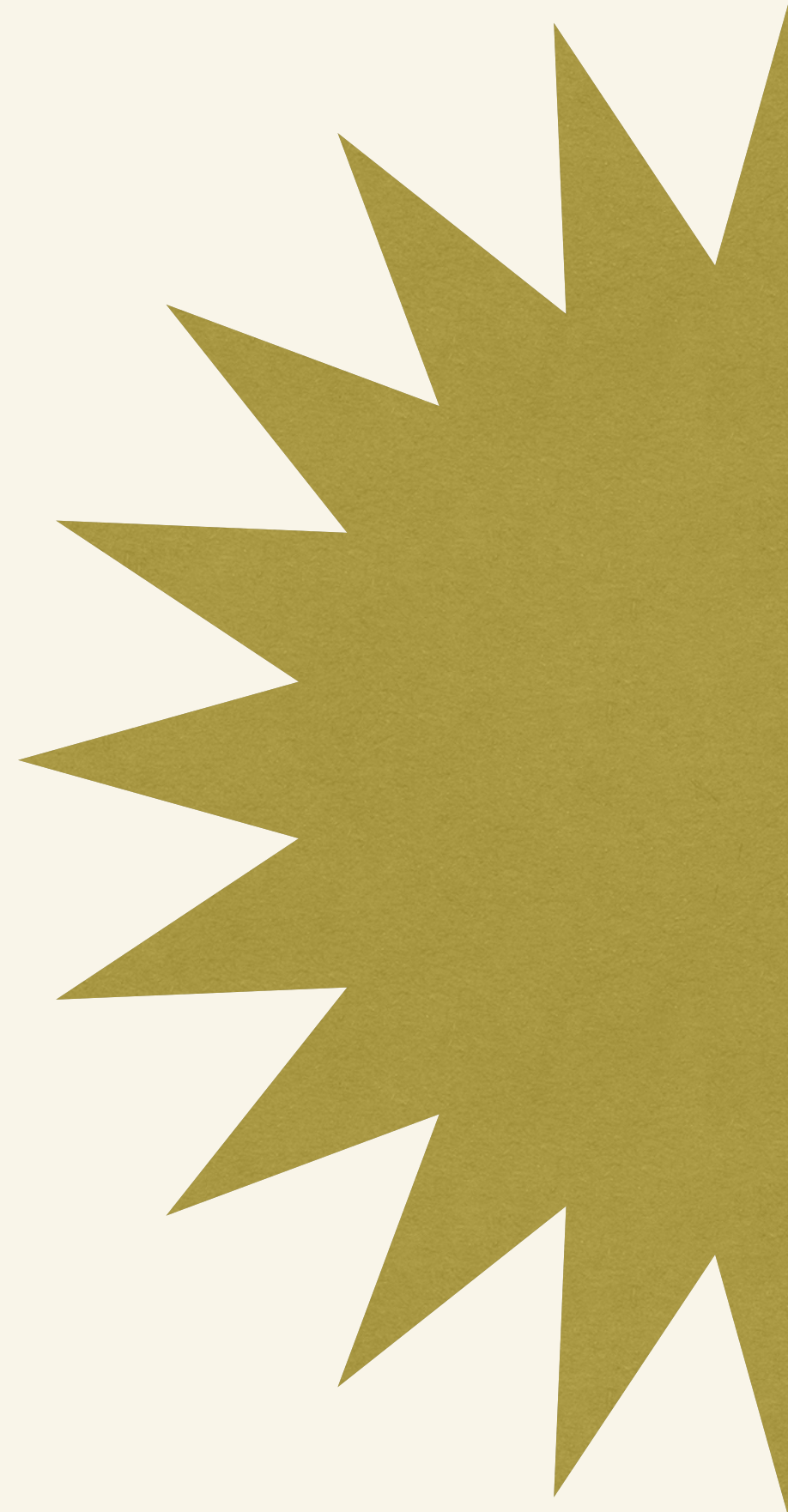
keywords:
speculative,
posthuman,
biotechnology,
cyborg, ethics

according to michel carrouge, "the mythical mana has passed down from the ancient kingdoms of nature (human, animal, vegetable, mineral) to the mechanical kingdom"
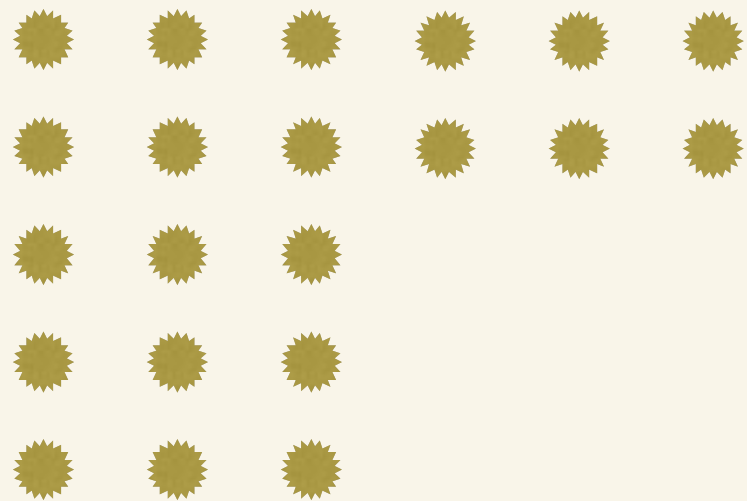
✳ man created the machine, but is man still master?

*defining posthuman

keywords:
speculative,
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cyborg, ethics

The dialogue surrounding the term 'posthuman' is a broad and chaotic one comprising of opposing views regarding our increasingly tangled relationship with technology.

These views often raise questions about our place as humans in the universe and the changes we might face in the near future.
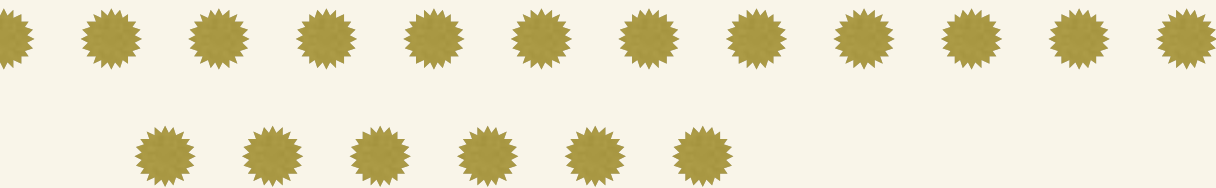
✳ according to fukuyama-

defining
posthuman

Political scientist Francis Fukuyama, who has written on biotechnology and posthumanism, warns that by messing with the human genome in order to enhance intelligence or physique or other desirable qualities, we might ''lose our humanity – that is, some essential quality that has always underpinned our sense of who we are and where we are going,'' and that "human nature is fundamental to our notions of justice, morality and the good life".

('Our Posthuman Future - Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution')
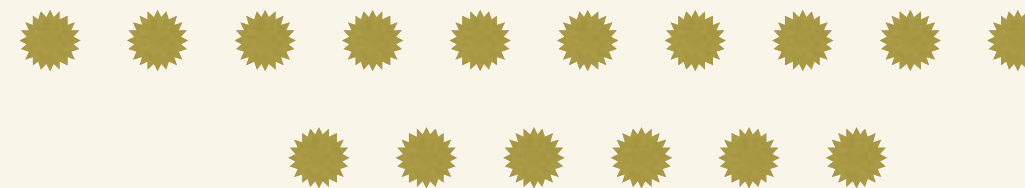
✳ Do we *want* to share our humanity with man-made machines? Do we really want them to think and behave like we do—to mimic our most meaningful intimacy?

* The discussion remains mired at a relatively abstract level about the ethics of procedures like cloning or stem cell research, and divided into one camp that would like to permit everything and another camp that would like to ban wide areas of research and practice.

Our Posthuman Future:
Consequences of the
Biotechnology Revolution
by Francis Fukuyama

✳ The broader debate is of course an important one, but events are moving so rapidly that we will soon need more practical guidance on how we can direct future developments so that the technology remains man's servant rather than his master.

Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution by Francis Fukuyama

*according to wolfe-

defining
posthuman

American writer Cary Wolfe defines 'posthuman' as a set of questions confronting us, and a way of dealing with those speculations, when we can no longer rely on "the human" as an autonomous, rational being who provides an objective point for knowing about the world.

(What is Posthumanism? by Cary Wolfe)
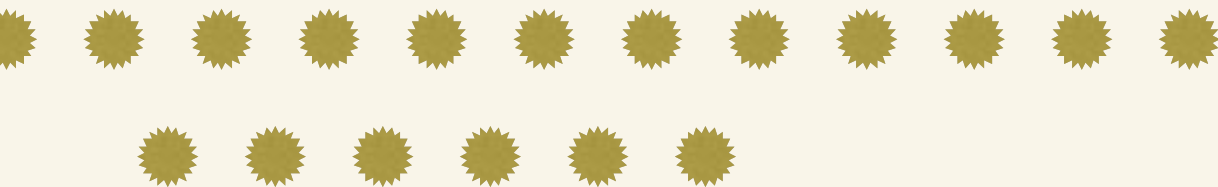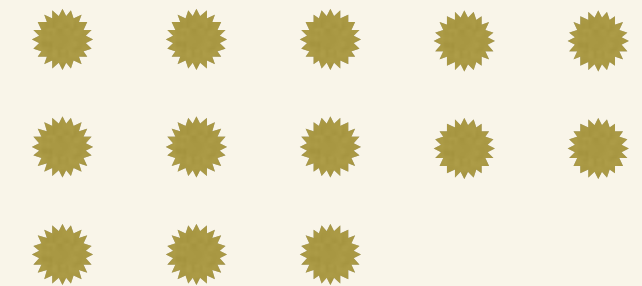
*according to heidegger-

defining posthuman

German philosopher Martin Heidegger also argues that technology can provide answers as to how we understand what's around us and that it shouldn't be positioned as "other" or separate from the human.

(The Question Concerning Technology)

✳ posthuman today

blade runner,
ex machina,
black mirror
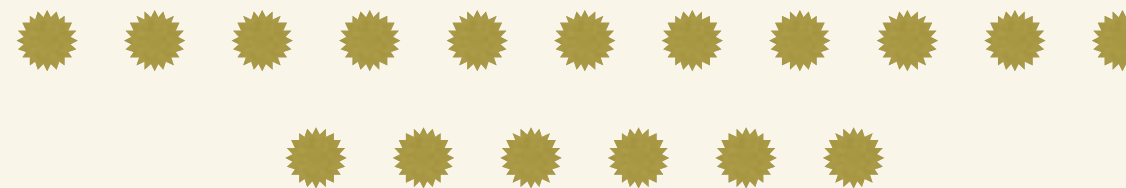
We can therefore say that posthuman is not a fixed idea, but a growing condition surrounding man's bond with technology.

Though this condition has been commonly portrayed in science-fiction film and literature, it has also revealed itself in new media works by performance artists, whose bodies altered by cybernetics are known as cyborgs or transhuman.

Neil Harbisson

We will stop using technology as a tool and we'll start using technology as part of the body

✳ cyborg who has an antenna implanted in his skull to extend his senses and 'hear' colour

Moon Ribas

I want to perceive movement in a deeper way

cyborg with a tiny magnet near the crook of her elbow that allows her to feel all tremors and earthquakes anywhere on earth, in real time.
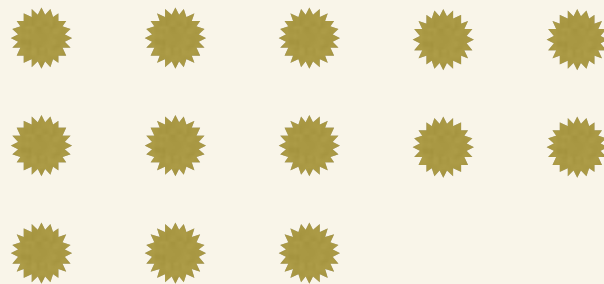
✳ study aims

1. To bridge the worlds of visual arts and engineering/science

2. To compare the truths of researched-based facts and studies with perceptions of science fiction in literature and film

3. To contribute to the dialogue on the ethics of these biotechnological advancements as a visual artist

✳ research
questions

research will be carried out
mainly through:

- factual articles and books
- film, literature and existing
  cyborg artists
- possible interviews with
  biotech experts

1) How have posthuman ideologies
    revealed itself in contemporary art?

2) What are the implications of the
    developing advancements in
    biotechnology?

3) How can visual artists contribute to
    the dialogue of posthumanism?

✳ art direction

surrealist and painterly (psychedelic) - rough moodpboard
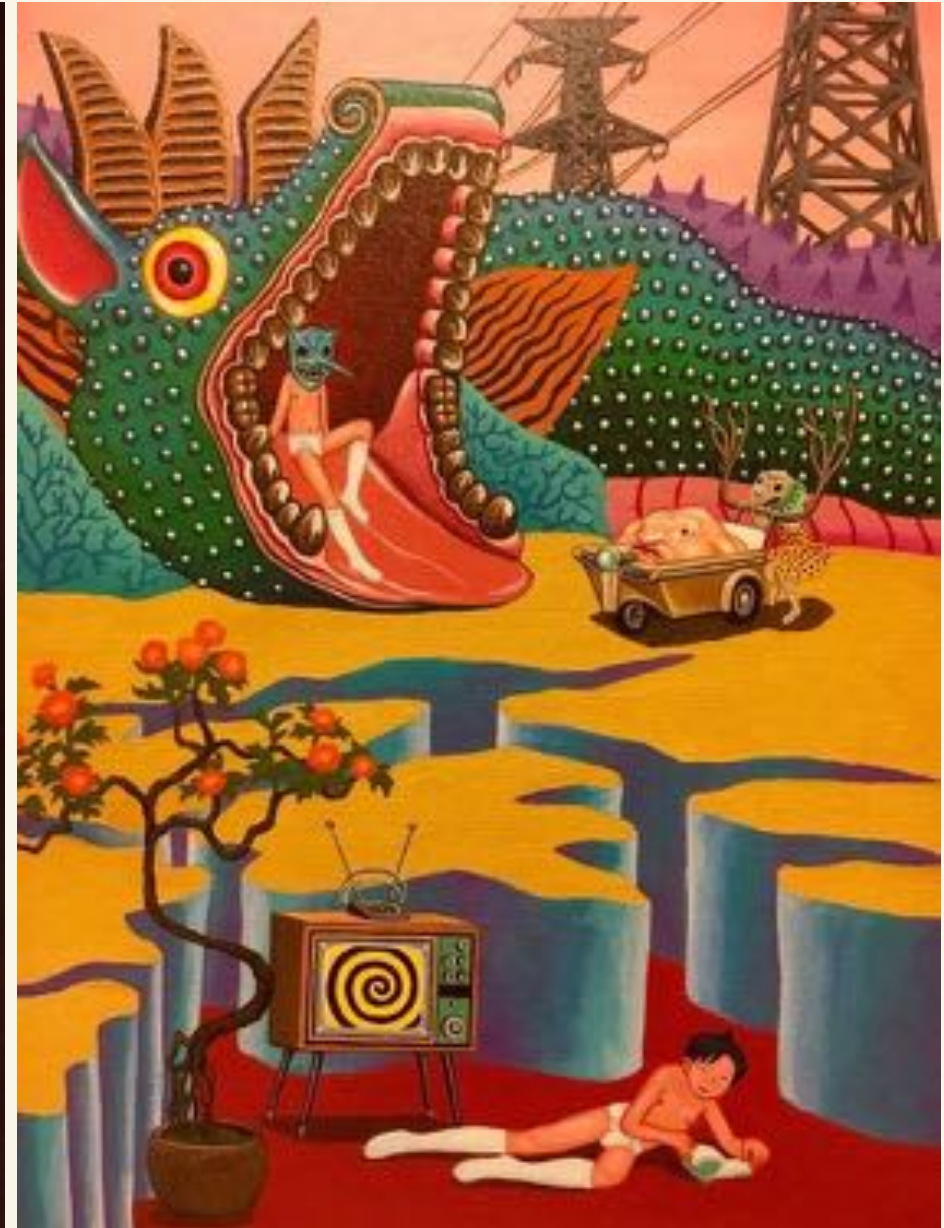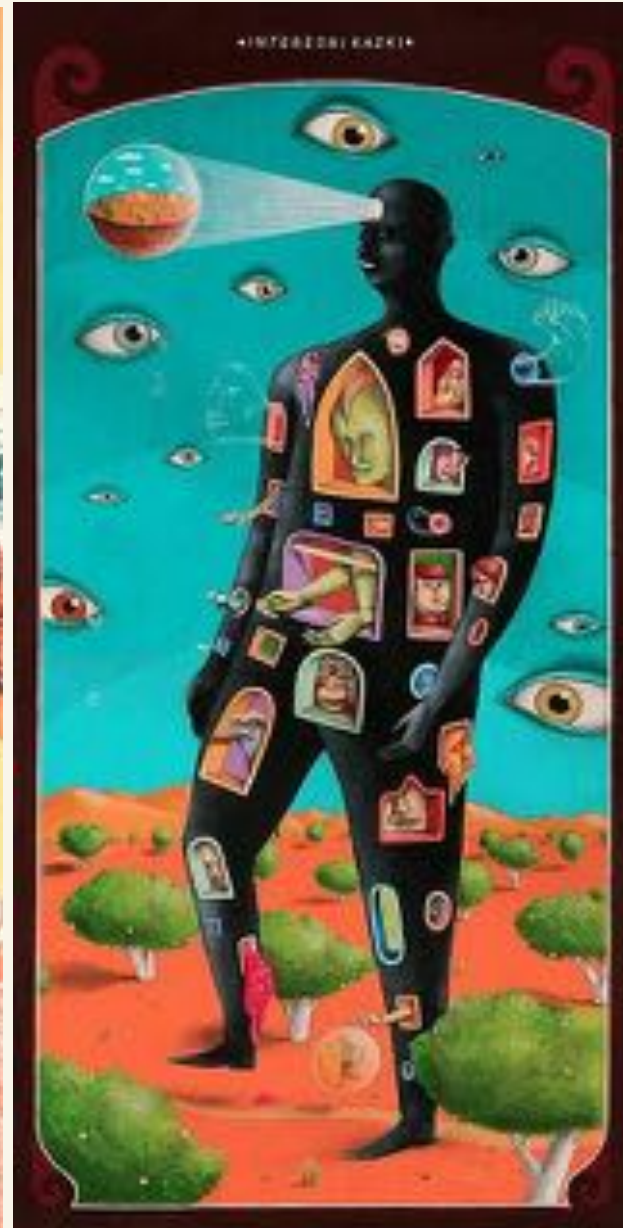
✳ milestones

2020	SEPT	Complete readings, re-watching of films, formulate narrative
	OCT	Experiment with art styles and set style
	NOV	Complete narrative, begin execution
	DEC	Simultaneously work on thesis structure
2021	JAN	Complete first draft for review
	FEB	1st review and refinement
	MAR	2nd review and refinement
	APR	Complete of project, work on thesis

BIBL IO GRA PHY

1. Sharing Our Humanity with Robots: What Does It Mean To Be Human? by Fabienne Gou-Baudiment

2. Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution by Francis Fukuyama

3. What is Posthumanism? by Cary Wolfe

4. The Question Concerning Technology by Martin Heidegger

5. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? (1968) Phillip K. Dick [Blade Runner (1982), 2049]

6. Ex Machina (2014) — Alex Garland