



# Children of Prometheus

Furtherfield Gallery, Finsbury Park, London

1 July - 20 August 2017

Sat-Sun, 11am - 5pm or by appointment

Private View: Friday 30 June 2017, 6 - 8pm

Featuring Anna Dumitriu (in collaboration with Melissa Grant and Rachel Sammons), Carla Gannis, AOS (Art is Open Source), Simon McLennan, and Alan Sondheim.

Humans have always exploited the raw materials this planet has to offer - with the power to change the nature of things, whether physical or virtual. With constant re-edits and enhancements we transform everything we touch as part of our evolutionary mutation. In Greek mythology Prometheus was a demigod and a Titan worshipped by craftsmen. Greek Titans were ultimately honoured as the ancestors of humans, who in turn were attributed with “the invention of the arts and magic” (Graves 1964). The artists featured in *Children of Prometheus* at Furtherfield Gallery explore the possible consequences of our scientific and technological imaginings for us as individuals, our

society and the world at large.

In this exhibition, visitors can encounter Anna Dumitriu’s *Microbe Mouth*, a necklace of unique teeth grown from bacteria. *Microbe Mouth* is a collaboration with scientists Melissa Grant and Rachel Sammons from the University of Birmingham’s School of Dentistry. Carla Gannis updates Hieronymus Bosch’s famous triptych in her *Garden of Emoji Delights* replacing medieval religious symbolism with an emotion-inspired iconography of the 21st century. Alan Sondheim’s *Avataurror* are 3D printed avatars representing distorted, wounded, problematic bodies and their relationship to states of violence and genocide, where cracks and wounds are eternally everywhere and nowhere. Simon McLennan’s *Drawings* reflect intimate contradictions in our dysfunctional society showing us daily mutations. When the artist and open-source engineer Salvatore Iaconesi, one of the artist duo AOS (Art is Open Source), was diagnosed with cancer he launched a participatory open source initiative to find a cure. The resulting global art performance *La Cura* explores the complexity of being human and seeks to find ways to reclaim our bodies in collaboration with others.

*Children of Prometheus* considers the roles of our arts and science traditions, and how they are played out while examining governance, posthumanism, biohacking, and biopolitics.

This exhibition is produced in partnership with LABoral, in Gijon as an extension of the *Monsters of the Machine* exhibition 18 Nov 2016 - 21 May 2017. Based on Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein* written 200 years ago which continues to offer a lens through which to examine current practices in arts and technology and how they shape society today.

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#### ARTISTS AND ART IN THE EXHIBITION

**Anna Dumitriu** - *Microbe Mouth*

**Carla Gannis** - *Garden of Emoji Delights*

**Simon McLennan** - Drawings

**Alan Sondheim** - 3D Printed glitch avatars & Landscape tablets, 2 Glitch videos

**AOS (Art is Open Source)** Salvatore Iaconesi & Oriana Persico - *La Cura*

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#### EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PRESENTATIONS

**Alan Sondheim - Performance/Presentation**

Wednesday 5 July 2017, 6.30 – 8.30pm

*Furtherfield Commons, Finsbury Park*

**Artist Talks: Carla Gannis and Alan Sondheim**

Monday 10 July 2017, 6:30 - 8.30pm

*CAS, Davidson House, 5 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HA*

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Visit the website for details:

<http://www.furtherfield.org/>

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#### NOTES

[1] Robert Graves. *Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology*. Paul Hamlyn, London. 5th Edition, 1964. P.92.

[2] *Body Drift: Butler, Hayles, Haraway (Posthumanities)*. Author Arthur Kroker. University of Minnesota Press (22 Oct. 2012).

[3] *Body Drift: Butler, Hayles and Haraway*. Review by Marc Garrett 15/08/2015. <http://www.furtherfield.org/features/reviews/body-drift-butler-hayles-and-haraway>

The exhibition draws upon ideas originally written in an essay *Prometheus 2.0: Frankenstein Conquers the World!* by Marc Garrett. <http://www.furtherfield.org/features/prometheus-20-and-our-god-complex>




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#### FURTHERFIELD GALLERY

Furtherfield Gallery is located in the middle of Finsbury Park attracting large numbers of diverse visitors reflecting the Gallery's unusual location. Jenny Judova of *Fad* magazine picked Furtherfield Gallery as one of the top five galleries in London that show new media art and *ArtSlant* featured Furtherfield Gallery in 'The Best Non-Profit Art Spaces in London'.

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#### ABOUT FURTHERFIELD

Furtherfield provides diverse access points for the creation, authoring and appreciation of art forms that arise from networked and digital culture. Through exhibitions, labs and debates around today's important questions, people explore the expressive and democratic potential of our artistic and technological cultures – locally, nationally & internationally.

[www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)

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