



7 Fantastic Artists from New Museum's 'Surround Audience' Triennial

New Museum's Triennial 'Surround Audience' in New York opened on 25 February 2015. Featuring 51 artists, New Museum's Curator Lauren Cornell and artist Ryan Trecartin co-curated the third iteration, with a focus on early-career artists reaffirming their commitment to exploring 'the future of culture through the art of today.' 'Surround Audience' aims to understand the digital age, the effects of technology on our lives and envisions a future of possibilities through the works of exhibiting artists. We find out more.



Josh Kline, 'Freedom', 2015 |
Courtesy New Museum, New York.
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Josh Kline

Kline's works explore the relationship between private and personal identities, and the role of social-media, including commodification of private and public data. His installation for the Triennial, titled 'Freedom' (2015), investigates disillusionment in politics, surveillance, media and how language can be manipulated. In the video 'Hope and Change' (2015), the artist hired a political speech writer and rewrote Obama's 2009 inaugural speech to conceive what the speech may have been like had he addressed the goals from his campaign. Also included in the installation are life-size Teletubby police figures with videos of police officers reading social-media feeds. In both Obama's speech and in the police video, Kline manipulates the facial features, utilizing a face-substitution software which further adds to the surreal environment. Later in 2015, he will expand on his 'Freedom' installation at New Museum for a solo exhibition at Modern Art Oxford in England.



Antoine Catala, 'Distant Feel',
2015 | Courtesy New Museum,
New York © Benoit Pailley

Antoine Catala

Catala is a multi-media artist with a Licence de Mathématiques Fondamentales from Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France, a BA in Sonic Arts from Middlesex University in London England, and a BA in Fine Arts from London Guildhall University in London, England. Catala's work for the Triennial titled 'Distant Feel' (2015), explores empathy, ways that images provoke feelings, and how we express ourselves in our daily lives through digital technology.

The sculpture 'Distant Feel' (2015) is made in a 'living medium' and is an illuminated aquarium in which (E3) logo, created with Droga5 advertising firm, is grown from live corals. According to Miller Gallery's press release, the artist is interested in 'our psycho-physical relations to images and how the ecosystem of images that we create—and surround ourselves with—deeply changes us.' On his website for the project, he writes: 'empathy is core to our biology, our evolution, our culture, our society. It is the raw, unprocessed emotional connective tissue between people. It is the glue that holds the human race together. It is the original OS.' He also cites a psychologist's study on the sharp drop in empathy levels among US college students in the past 10 years and adds, that 'it's paradoxically OK to be distant and encourages us to express our empathy in an effective way...via all means of communication.'