

Looking ‘Future Shock’ in the Face, an Art Exhibition Reveals a Society Fundamentally Unsettled by Technology

Tanner West, February 8, 2018

“Future Shock” at SITE Santa Fe, New Mexico

What the Institution Says: “Future Shock [is] a large-scale exhibition of international artists that articulates the profound impact of the acceleration of technological, social, and structural change upon contemporary life. [This exhibition] takes its title from Alvin Toffler’s prophetic 1970’s book, in which he describes the exhilaration and consequences of our rapidly advancing world. With Toffler’s predictions and warnings as a backdrop, ‘Future Shock’ [brings] together the work of 10 artists, including new commissions by Regina Silveira, Alexis Rockman, and Lynn Hershman Leeson, whose works imagine a range of visions of our present and future.”

Why It’s Worth a Look: “Future Shock” sets its sights on several big issues that couldn’t feel more timely—mass surveillance, technocapitalism, globalization, population growth, pressing environmental concerns, and others. But it’s also fun, with Tom Sachs’s Mars rovers and Doug Aitken’s surreal video vignettes of animals turned loose in abandoned hotel rooms sharing space with Dario Robleto’s plaintive time capsule-like collection of artifacts and Patrick Bernatchez’s *Lost in Time*, a bleak video narrative depicting figures adrift in an icy wilderness. You have to admire the ambition of curator Irene Hofmann, who sets a high bar here for the Santa Fe institution’s debut in its brand new, SHoP Architects-designed home.



Regina Silveira, *MUNDUS ADMIRABILIS* (2007–ongoing). Courtesy of the artist and SITE Santa Fe. Photo: Eric Swanson.