

Valeria Abendroth

LABORATORIUM SUGGERERE

11 August–9 September 2023

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

The art installation *Laboratorium suggerere* replicates a medical development laboratory, a walk-through space where reality and fantasy merge. The colors and smooth shapes of the room may initially make it look appealing, but on closer inspection there may be a feeling of discomfort.

A segment of this work consists of 3D-printed body organs, bones and veins, as well as abstract art objects made of artificial materials such as plastic, wax and silicone. These sculptural objects resemble prostheses, body parts and biological structures, but have no identity. In a state of mutation, they must be understood as the threatening beginning of something that we cannot yet fully capture and understand.

The artist wishes to create an impulse and establish an awareness of the current development and transformation of health and life science. The audience is invited to sensually capture this clinically artificial space through touch, sight and smell.

“Through my work I would like to activate the deep sensitivity of the human body: when we feel and touch, through touch we create a sense of self and a real spatial impression.”

Take a walk through a medical development laboratory where reality and fantasy merge. Realistic 3D prints of human organs designed for medical training are juxtaposed with art objects created by the artist. Compared to traditional anatomical rendering, the ability to manipulate these physical objects brings a new dimension of awareness of their properties – size, shape and texture.

Artist's statement

“My interest in art is at the interface between humanity and art. I am inspired by the critical questioning of different models of life and engaging with anthropology and transhumanism. I am interested in new technologies and different practices that lead to the optimization of the body. The focus is on medical, artificial and technical methods that alter and manipulate the body and the mind. Thus, my artwork thematically revolves around the meanings of the body, the mind and human identity, which in turn have an impact on the person's inner state and interpersonal relationships, as well as on social structures.

I work independently and in collaboration with experts from other fields of art, science, medicine and technology. This has resulted in new artistic ways and methods of working that greatly enrich and develop my artistic work.

The past, present and future are combined to create installations, biomorphic sculptures and

** Terms used in this text that refer to persons and are written in the masculine grammatical form are used as gender-neutral.*

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MMC KIBLA/KiBela, Ulica kneza Koclja 9, Maribor
Opening hours: Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturdays: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

video works in clinical and medical aesthetics. This leads to an interaction between reality and imagination, beauty and disgust. Seeing artworks should evoke ambivalent feelings, such as attraction and repulsion at the same time.

For my installations and objects I often use artificial materials such as silicone, plastic and wax, as well as those belonging to the field of medicine. The reference to medicine was inspired by my work as a dental technician for many years.

My video works show poetic scenes that touch the viewer with their aesthetics and make them think. During the development of my work, I pay special attention to the most expressive visual form possible, so that visitors of the art exhibition can experience my work sensually and physically. This can create a special curiosity that opens up new ways of perception for the viewer. Views can change according to changes, progress and the importance of the body in general."

Valeria was inspired to do this work by her participation in the Prime 3D technology team, which consists of >INOVA.DE< from Heidelberg (Germany) and >Create it REAL< from Aalborg (Denmark). The team is currently developing 3D printing systems for the medical sector with the aim of 3D printing body organs in soft materials according to patient records/CT-scans. This allows doctors and medical students to get a realistic and accurate view into and of the human body.

This art installation is the result of the S+T+ARTS Arts and Technology funding program, an initiative of the European Commission.

BIOGRAPHY

Website



"I emigrated from Russia to Germany in the 1990s. I finished my education and got a job as a dental technician. After five years of working full-time as a dental technician, I left my job and went to study fine arts. My experience as a dental technician gave me a special perspective on the processing and use of materials in the context of art. Through sculptures, installations and video art, my art reflects topics about the human being, tradition and modernity, and has social and societal relevance. I am now holding exhibitions and participating in residencies around the world. The emergence and growth of my artistic work stems from and connects with many other fields and sciences such as technology, psychology, anthropology, biology. My work is balanced between questions about the humanity of the machine and the optimization and technologization of the human body. I ask questions about the future development of the human body, the physical and psychological impact of society."