

Ola Lanko

Pantheon one zero

2017

Jacquard, polyester tapestry

100 x 70 cm

Nietzsche's famous statement "God is dead" together with growing contemporary discourse in philosophy of technology about the replacement of the position of God by human kind, triggered Ola Lanko to start an investigation into the origins of God's personification. Greek mythology and the super powers which the habitants of Pantheon were possessing, became a main source of ideas for the project.

Looking at the features which Greek Gods had, such as eternal life, teleportation, prediction of events etc. they remind the directions that contemporary technology, social strategies and scientific experiments take. It is like humans in 6 century BC were projecting their inner dreams and desires onto their Gods and here we are hundreds of years later taking the position of God and, with the help of technology, acquiring all desired super powers.

But, while working on the enhancement of human abilities, another divine entity was growing and getting stronger. Data, codes, algorithms, digital environment is developing into a wild jungle that human can barely comprehend. Ola Lanko makes a speculative proposition. She took ten most used algorithms and found Greek Gods who were carrying the same abilities. Resulting series include ten images each called by the name of god and represents an algorithm. Kirke is a God of transformation and stands for the merge algorithm, Iris Goddess of communication takes a role of linking algorithm and so on. Images of Greek statues were exposed to glitch, a mistake that happens accidentally and provides a visual manifestation of a broken data, as like the algorithmic deity is communicating with us through those corrupted bits. Resulting images carry some traces of the past but they were touched by the now and will remain for the future. Using an old machine weaving technique, Ola Lanko used the discrepancy between with warm tactility of fabric and distant digital aesthetics.

Pantheon one zero shows an abstract, non-referential and mysterious creation of a supreme algorithmic deity. A series of everlasting images to contemplate and worship the sublime nature constituted by data. Visually triggering jacquard fabric, made out of plastic fibers carrying new history that can't be comprehended without secret knowledge of code.