## UTOPIA 3/27 - 4/20/20 The Chandelier City

Ben Gotlieb, Eric Leffler, Hamid Ra, May Roded, and Yoory Jung Curated by: Yeltsin Penado

Resting in a space that has no land, UTOPIA is in the clouds of an imagined space that is experiencing a locked solar cycle that simulates a perpetual sunset. The outer walls are graced by clouds and orange lighting.

A Utopia is an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. Perfection is subjective, everyone is influenced by their surroundings, modalities, philosophies and fantasies.

UTOPIA: Inspired by Isaac Arthur's vision of humanity's future colonies beyond earth. Arthur imagines a future in which humans colonize the outer edges of the solar system, notably the Ice Giants: Neptune and Uranus. Arthur theorieses the possibility of Chandelier Cities that float in the clouds of Neptune. These cities would theoretically hang down from the upper layer of Neptune's atmosphere,

Isaac Arthur is a Futurist, most notably the producer of the YouTube series: Science & Futurism With Isaac Arthur (SFIA). In his series he describes and discusses a future in which humans colonize space and utilize raw materials on other planets and bodies in our solar system to create sustainable habitats. These predictions and theories are highlighted with known elements of astronomy, physics, and biology. Arthur describes a future in which the once inhabitable, becomes an oasis for life on the outer edges of our solar system.

Post-Humanism: is a concept living in the discourse of Science Fiction, Futurology, Contemporary Art, and Philosophy. It refers to a person or entity in a state beyond being human. This concept addresses ethics, justice, language, trans-species communication, social systems and intellectual aspirations. Transcending humanism, embraces the idea of cybernetic, spiritual, and metaphysical embodiment of one's own state of being.

The Alchemical process of creative production, is a manifestation of one's lucid existence within a physical form.

In A Cyborg Manifesto (1985), Donna Haraway describes a cybernetic organism that is no longer structured by the polarity of public and private. An entity that transcends the boundaries of social expectations:

"Nature and culture are reworked; the one can no longer be the resource for appropriation or incorporation by the other"

Evolution has blurred the lines between human and animal; 20th century machines have made ambiguous the lines between natural and artificial. We are currently living in a time-line that suggests that we may be physical manifestations of the machines we praise; and if so, what do we make of our own creations?

Haraway makes a point that creates a distinction between physical and non-physical. Modern machinery is everywhere and invisible; hosting a level of ubiquity and spirituality that is etched in molecular scales, distributed by 'atomic noise'. This leads us to a society and culture that fundamentally is controlled by expectations of synthetic communication at a global scale.

"Writing, power and technology are old partners of Western stories of the origin of civilization, but miniaturization has changed our experience of mechanism. Miniaturization has turned out to be about power; small is not so much beautiful as pre-eminently dangerous."

The existence of art in the matrices of collective thought and imagination deforms the fabric of perception and experience.

Science fantasy, space is an endless expanse of unlimited resources to be consumed. Post-humanistic beings exist in which they transcend their physical forms and become one with machines.

Post-Humans and/or after-humans: The idea that humanity can morph into something that is unrecognizable: socially, culturally, physically and spiritually in the deep future and within the present and past.

As humanity moves itself towards the stars, life begins to move past the limits of politics, economics, culture and meaning lifts itself.

We cannot create a utopia, we can only arrange the variables for something that mirrors the sublime technical existence of our imagination.



Neptune Colony Image Credits: Jeremy Jozwik

UTOPIA is presented as an online experience.