

Week 16

From my personal point of view, Victoria Modesta is undoubtedly a transhumanist artist, but not quite.

Firstly we should clarify the concept and distinction between posthuman and transhuman artists: posthumanism and transhumanism are two closely related philosophical concepts that explore the relationship between humans and technology. Posthumanism challenges the traditional humanist notion that humans are the only creatures worthy of moral consideration, arguing that the line between humans and machines is becoming increasingly blurred. Transhumanism takes this concept a step further by advocating the use of technology to enhance human capabilities and overcome the limitations of biology.

Transhumanism can be seen to be more about enhancing and expanding human capabilities, it is an enhancement and expansion rather than a new category of being that transcends traditional human categories and boundaries as advocated by 'posthumanism'.

When viewed in the context of the video, we can see that Victoria Modesta repeatedly uses prosthetics to emphasise or enhance her physical beauty, but while these prosthetics enhance and extend herself, they also blur the concept of the human and the machine, and they appear several times in the video, all with different effects and themes, arguably outperforming traditional limbs in terms of expressiveness. It is a kind of transcendence, an implicit posthumanism, if you will.

The boundaries between the various isms are not always clear, and generally I don't like to identify things by 'labelling' them, but there is no doubt that Victoria Modesta's work contains both elements, and that they reinforce each other and make her style more distinctive.

I think it's difficult to say that many works are simply doctrinal, as in the case of Victoria Modesta's work. But at this point I would prefer her to be transhumanist, but things are dynamic and a lot of things are transforming into each other, the relationship between people and technology is constantly evolving and we need to look at things with a dynamic eye.