

READING 4

In the most interesting reading we have had to date, this article talks about transhumanism and its effect on society while going over one anime/comic franchise, *Ghost in the Shell*. In particular the 1995 anime film, which the title is coined from the original Ghost in the Machine. The title alone has such a connection to life in the technological world. This article refers to the ghost as the mind and the shell as the body in the age of connectivity. And I think this has a strong similarity to digital art, especially as technology continues to grow at such a rapid rate. As artists you are not seen and even if you are well known, you are not being stopped on the street. Really you are just a ghost behind the machine and I think this deepens as technology deepens. Another interesting topic is the “puppet master” which in this film is the artificial intelligence who is the master hacker and can control humans. At the end of the article the author points out that these technological leaps could help us get over racial and gender roles, I felt they stopped just short when not comparing hollywood to the puppet master. After all they pick who stars in the film no matter what the writers or major consumers of this long franchise have to say about it. I can't see star wars becoming a big anime show in Japan.