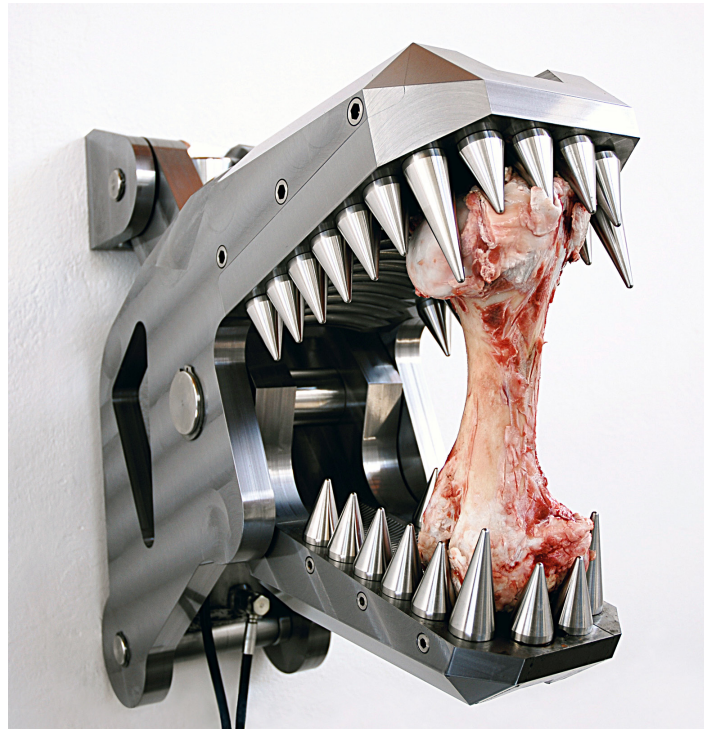


Arcangelo Sassolino: Not Human

Arcangelo Sassolino: Not Human is the Italian sculptor's first solo museum exhibition in the United States, featuring his kinetic sculptures that breathe, explode, punch, and crush. Elegantly fabricated with the help of experts and engineers, each work mimics a human experience: taking a breath, biting down. But these anthropomorphic references are complicated by the fact that the objects can be menacing as well as captivating; while some are poetic, others confront viewers with seemingly dangerous and violent acts.

Not Human highlights the three distinct states of Sassolino's sculptures: the machine at rest, the action, and the ensuing aftermath. *Macroscopic and domestic* (2010), for example, consists of a powder-coated air compression tank that rhythmically inflates and deflates an empty water bottle, essentially functioning like a respirator or lung. In *Untitled* (2008–16), a block of wood is subjected to the force of a hydraulic piston, initially concealed within a polished exterior. Once activated, the machine slowly releases a solid steel "arm," breaking the plank in two and emitting gunshot-like noises as the structure splinters.

Sassolino attempts to push the expectations of sculpture, re-casting physical, often times destructive, acts. His work calls into question the qualities one must possess to be human, while raising doubt about agency and empathy in our contemporary consciousness.



FIGURANTE, 2010. Steel, bone, hydraulic system, 29 ½ × 26 ¾ × 9 ¼ inches (head).
Collection of Paolo Ferretti, Bolzano.



Audio Tour

Visit camstlaudio.org or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artist and curator on the audio tour.

Arcangelo Sassolino (b. 1967, Vicenza, Italy) lives and works in his hometown. Solo exhibitions include Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Berlin (2015); Nicola Von Senger, Zurich (2010, 2007); House of contemporary art, Hasslet (2010); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2008); and Galleria Galcia, Milan (2006). Sassolino's work has been featured in a number of group exhibitions, including shows at Bortolami Gallery, New York (2013); Centro di Cultura Contemporanea Strozzi, Firenze, Italy (2012, 2010); Galleria Enrico Astuni, Bologna, Italy (2011); Tinguely Museum, Basel, Switzerland (2010); Dunkers Kulturhus, Helsingborg, Sweden (2008); Kunsthalle Göppingen, Germany (2005); Fondazione O'Artoteca, Milan; (2004); and Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa, Venice (2002).

This exhibition is generously supported by Eve Steele and Peter Gelles; Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Berlin; Galleria Continua, San Gimignano; Paolo Ferretti, hmc-heartmindceativity; and M & M Meats. Special thanks to Bolyard's Meat & Provisions.

Arcangelo Sassolino: Not Human is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator.



Arcangelo Sassolino, *Lucian*, 2016. Steel, truck tires, 39 3/4 x 40 3/8 x 40 3/8 inches. Courtesy Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, and Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Berlin.

Related Events

Ghost in the Machine

Experience the breathing, chewing, and exploding objects of *Arcangelo Sassolino: Not Human* at key moments in the day.

Feeding Time

10:15 am daily; 7:00 pm every First Friday
Museum staff “feed” the powerful steel jaws of *FIGURANTE* (2010), which crushes a cow humerus over a three-hour period.

click. click. boom.

Between 3:15 and 3:30 pm daily
Filled with gas to the point of exploding, the glass bottle of *D.P.D.U.F.A.* (2016) shatters inside a bulletproof structure, the sound echoing throughout the Museum. *Ear plugs available at front desk.*

TIMBER...!

10:15 am daily; 7:00 pm every First Friday
Beginning every morning when the Museum opens, *Untitled* (2008–16) releases a solid steel “arm” into a block of wood, smashing it into pieces over the course of several hours.

RE: Robotics

Saturday, February 27, 2:00 pm

Free & open to the public

Using Arcangelo Sassolino's kinetic objects as a point of departure, robotics maker and electronics expert Apollo Timbers discusses automation, artificial intelligence, and the future of robotics.

Book Club: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?

Sunday, March 20, 1:00 pm

\$10; free for members; or subscribe to Take 5 series at camstl.org/bookclub

View Arcangelo Sassolino's humanlike machines, then join a discussion of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, Phillip K. Dick's 1968 literary masterpiece that inspired the film *Blade Runner*.



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