

Art | Basel Hong Kong

PEDRO NEVES MARQUES
ANDROID LOOP

DISCOVERIES
ART BASEL HONG KONG 2023

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PEDRO NEVES MARQUES

1984, Lisbon, PT



The research conducted by the artist over the years has constantly questioned the premises underlying the relations between nature, technology, science, and colonial relations. In all their projects Pedro Neves Marques highlights the transformation, in space and time, of cultural phenomena, from political and economic models to gender notions, expectations about the future, and even entire landscapes, as in Brazil, where they have worked for a decade now. As in their essays and literary oeuvre, the perspective adopted in their work emphasizes not only the contradictions within all of the above, but more recently also talk to intimate and personal stories that challenge preestablished political orders and images. To do so, their works encourage an ecological and anthropological approach to the definition of so-called natural processes, especially in relation to the technological and political sphere, through the use of art in a dialogue with other disciplines.

Pedro Neves Marques is a cinema director, artist, and writer, working across poetry and critical writings on art and theory. Storytelling, science fiction, and the political role of intimacy and emotions are defining elements of their work, through which they imagine possible futures and examine historical clashes between ecology, technology, gender, and sexuality.

They were the Official Portuguese Representation – Portugal Pavilion at the 59th La Biennale di Venezia in 2022 and have been awarded a Special Prize at the Pinchuk Future Generation Art Prize in 2022 and the Present Future Art Prize at Artissima in 2018. Their work has been exhibited in major art institutions, including solo shows at High Line and e-flux (New York), CA2M (Madrid), CaixaForum (Barcelona), Castello di Rivoli (Turin), Gasworks (London), Pérez Art Museum of Miami (USA), and Berardo Museum Collection (Lisbon), and group exhibitions and film screenings at Palais de Tokyo, Jeu de Paume and Kadist Foundation (Paris), Tate Modern Film and Serpentine Galleries Cinema (London), Sculpture Center, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts and Anthology Film Archives (New York), Blackwood Gallery (Toronto), Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum and Guangdong Times Museum (China), VCCA Foundation (Hanoi), Fundación Botín and Matadero (Madrid), PAV Foundation (Turin), and MAAT (Lisbon), among others.

They have participated in art biennials such as Gwangju Biennale, Guangzhou Image Triennial, Liverpool Biennial, Contour 8 Biennial, and New Museum Triennial. Their films for cinema have premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and the New York Film Festival, having been awarded the prestigious Ammodo Tiger Short Award at IFFR - International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2022, among other film festival prizes. They are co-founders of the poetry press Pântano Books and of the film production company Foi Bonita a Festa. Their critical writings are published regularly in e-flux journal and have been included in publications by museums and publishers such as MIT Press, Sternberg Press, and Verso. They were born in Lisbon, Portugal, and have lived in London, São Paulo, and New York for the past fifteen years..

Android Loop

Art Basel Hong Kong

23/25 March 2023

Discoveries

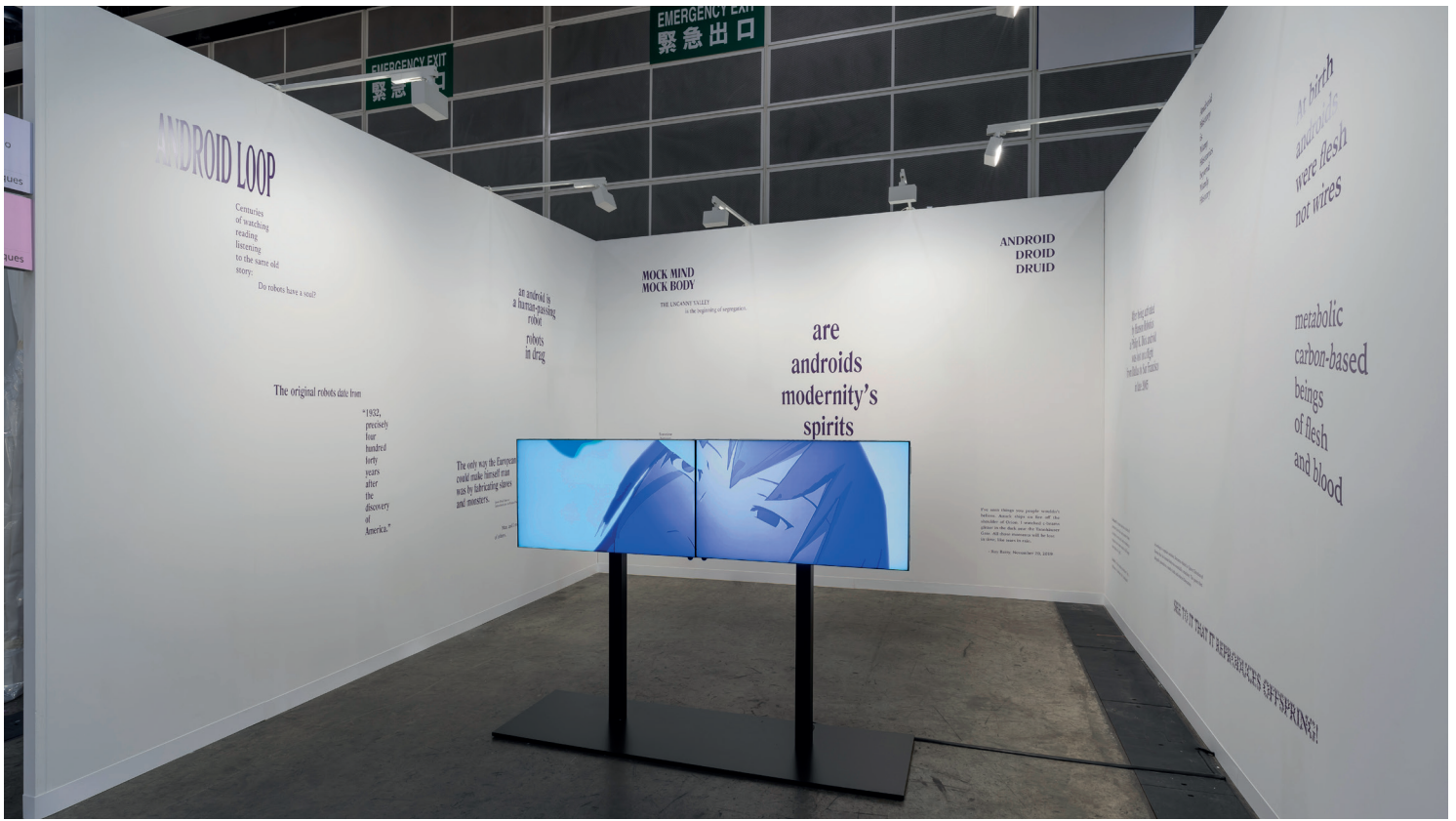
Umberto Di Marino, Naples

Level 3 Booth 3D35



Art Basel Hong Kong, *Android Loop*, 2023

The artworks presented for Discoveries at Art Basel Hong Kong are part of what Neves Marques calls *YWY Saga*, a project began in 2017 and developed in dialogue with Indigenous actress and artist Zahy Guajajara, from the northeast of Brazil. In their 2017 fiction film *Exterminator Seed*, Neves Marques invented an android character named YWY, meaning land or territory in the Amerindian Tupi-Guarani language, played by Guajajara, who has since become a long-time collaborator in Neves Marques's films. The film was shot across three Brazilian states and placed this android character in the midst of the vast genetically modified agricultural crops of inner Brazil, such as soy, cotton, and maize, as a way to test, via science fiction, notions of ecology, environmental contamination, and the human impact of industry. Since then Neves Marques has continued to develop the life and world of this character through films such as *YWY*, *The Android* and *Learning to Live with the Enemy* (both from 2017), texts published for example in Guangzhou Times Museum's *South of the South* magazine #1, and an anthology gathering writers and artists from across the world published by the art and theory publisher Sternberg Press titled *YWY, Searching for a Character Between Future Worlds: Gender, Ecology, Science Fiction*. For Art Basel Hong Kong, Neves Marques brings new life to this character. They will present the animation *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West* (2021), that will be screened on a two LED screen and will be accompanied by a series of vinyls titled *Android Loop* (2021-2023), which will occupy the booth's walls. With drawings by illustrator and Anime academic Hetamoé, *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West* uses both hand-drawn and digital animation to do a visual speculation on the similarity between the landscapes of Rio de Janeiro and the Pearl River Delta, as well the historical economic ties between the two regions: where before China was the biggest importer of South American silver, now Brazil is the biggest importer of Chinese soya. Both landscapes are brought into dialogue to create a science fictional universe, showing YWY and Neves Marques traversing a portal between a street market in Rio de Janeiro and Hong Kong's



Art Basel Hong Kong, *Android Loop*, 2023

Temple Street Market. The work came out of Neves Marques visits to Hong Kong throughout the last few years and has the artist playing themselves in the film. Finally, *Android Loop* is series of vinyl poems installed in a loop around the exhibition space. The piece consists of text compositions between poetic writings by Neves Marques, quotes from literature and cinema, and historical research on the history of androids. Simultaneously humorous and critical, the piece expresses how this science-fictional robotic figure has always reflected issues of gender, an history of class, and even the distinction between humans, animals, and plants. Similarly to the animation *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West*, this series of poems show how the meaning and our relation to androids changes from geography to geography, and anchors the entire *YWY Saga* in a reflection on science fiction.

*Android
History
is
Many
Histories
beyond
Manly
History*

Android Loop, 2021/23, extract



Art Basel Hong Kong, *Android Loop*, 2023

The only way the European
could make himself man
was by fabricating slaves
and monsters.

Android Loop, 2021/23, extract



video stills of *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West*, 2021

Pedro Neves Marques in collaboration with Hetamoé
YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West
2021

9', digital animation video, sound
Musical composition by Pedro Góis.

With drawings by artist and illustrator Hetamoé, *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West* is part of the YWY Series: a set of films, artworks, and texts focusing on an android character named YWY, meaning land or territory in the Tupi-Guarani language, played by Indigenous artist and actress Zahy Guajajara. The animation, in a bastard style of Anime, is a visual speculation on the geographical similarity between Rio de Janeiro and the Pearl River Delta region, as well as their historical economic ties, with both landscapes mixing up in a science fictional future. The animation is based on an eponymous short story of mine: a piece mixing historical research, science fiction, and autofiction originally published in [Times Museum South of the South magazine #1](#). *YWY, Searching for a Character Between East and West* is part of the YWY Series, developed in dialogue with Zahy Guajajara, including the films *Exterminator Seed* (2017), *YWY, The Android* (2017), *Learning to Live with the Enemy* (2017), and *YWY, Visions* (forthcoming, 2022), the wall text piece *Android Loop* (2021), Guajajara's own sound installation *Hekepé* (2021), and the edited anthology *YWY, Searching for a Character Between Future Worlds: Gender, Ecology, Science Fiction* (Sternberg Press and CA2M, 2021)

Link: <https://vimeo.com/805909035>

Password: nevesmarques_priv

Presented works

Pedro Neves Marques
Android Loop
2021-2023
vinyl on wall
dimension variable

A series of poems, printed on adhesive vinyl and on framed cotton paper, titled *Android Loop* that express how androids have always reflected and sublimated issues of gender, class, and even ecology. The works consist of texts compositions among poetic writings by the artist, quotes from literature and cinema, and historical research on the history of androids.



Android Loop #1, 2021-2023, vinyl on wall, dimension variable

MOCK MIND MOCK BODY

THE UNCANNY VALLEY

is the beginning of segregation.

Sometime
between
1709 and 1782
Jacques de Vaucanson
invented a duck
that could eat and shit.

Amazed
by
the
shitting duck
Diderot and D'Alembert
write
in their
Encyclopédie:

s. m. (Mécanique) automate ayant figure humaine
et qui, par le moyen de certains ressorts, etc.,
bien disposés, agit et fait d'autres fonctions
extérieurement semblables à celles de l'homme.
Voyez AUTOMATE.

are androids modernity's spirits ?

humans angels animals robots, like spirits — all relations...

ANDROID DROID DRUID

I've seen things you people wouldn't
believe. Attack ships on fire off the
shoulder of Orion. I watched c-beams
glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser
Gate. All those moments will be lost
in time, like tears in rain.

Roy Batty, November 20, 2019

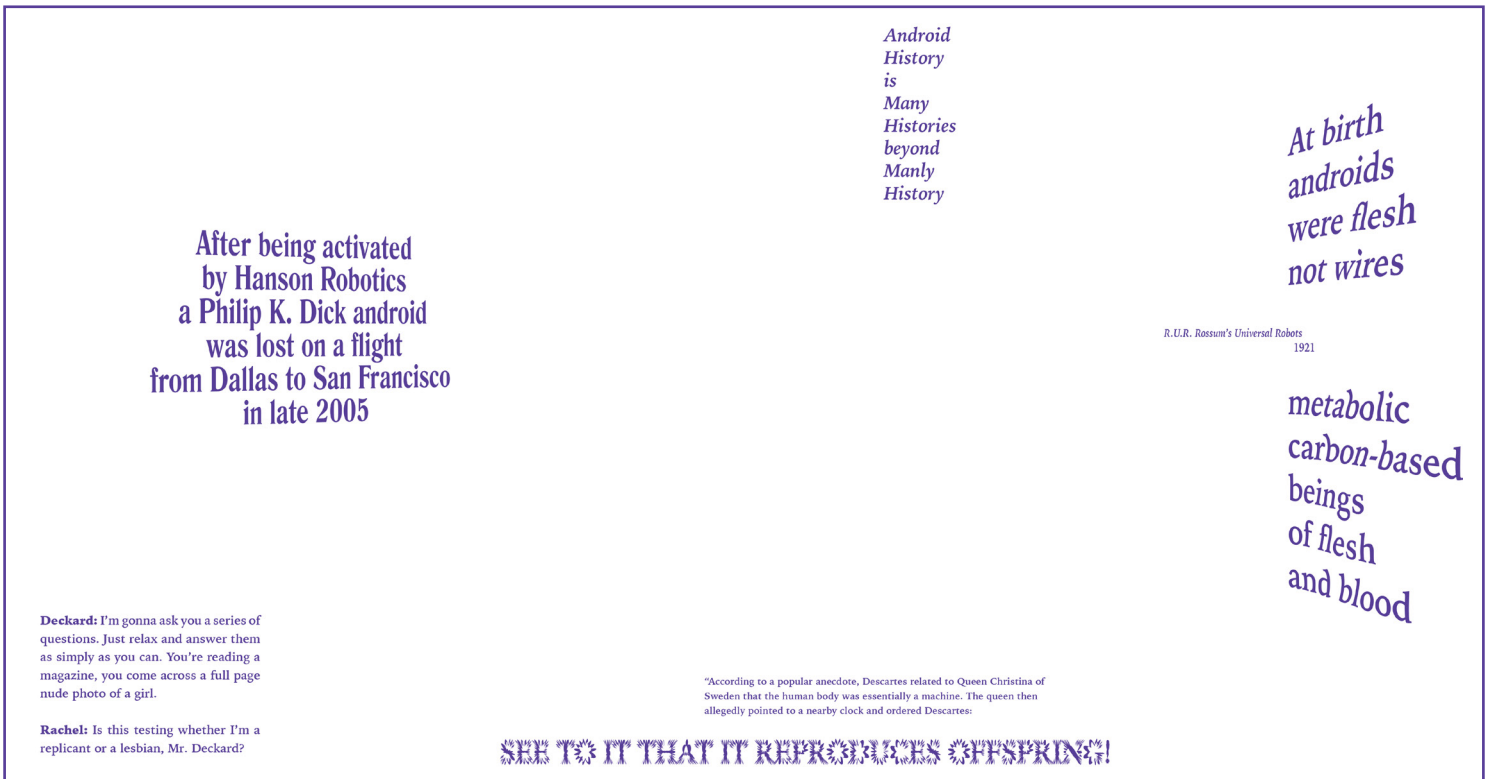
Android Loop #2, 2021-2023, vinyl on wall, dimension variable



Art Basel Hong Kong, Android Loop, 2023



Art Basel Hong Kong, *Android Loop*, 2023



Android Loop #3, 2021-2023, vinyl on wall, dimension variable

Presented works



Pedro Neves Marques

Android Loop

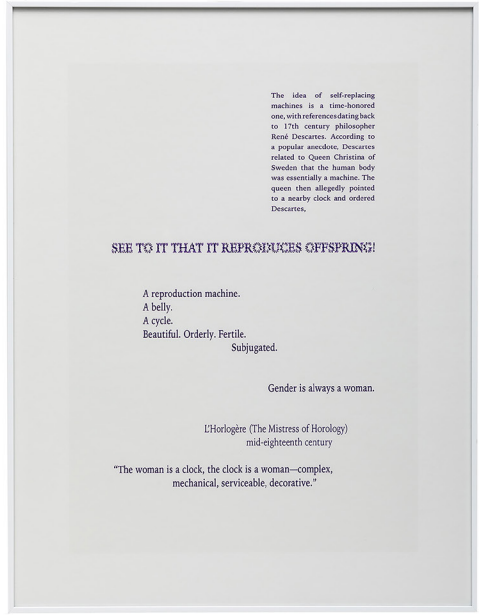
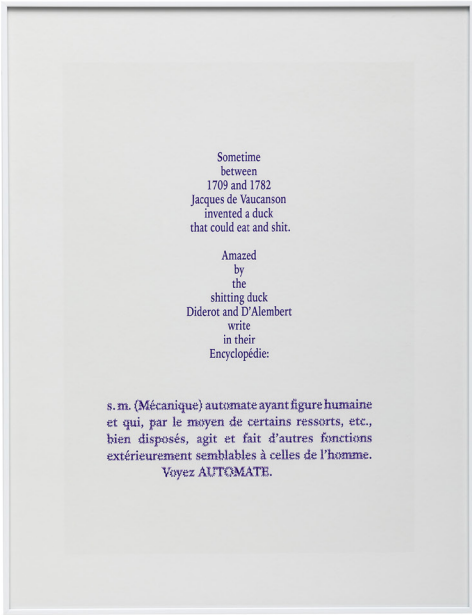
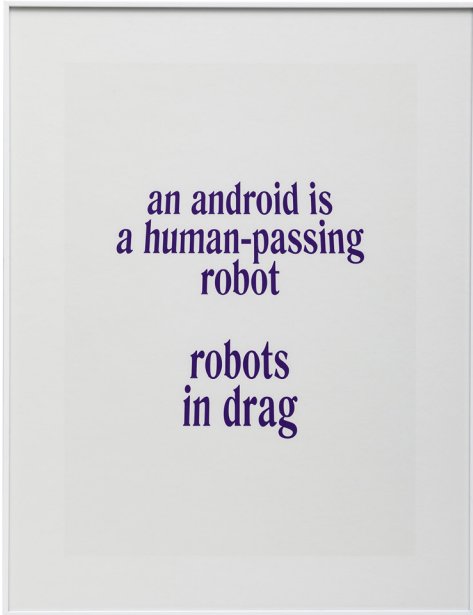
2023

5 digital prints on cotton, metal frames

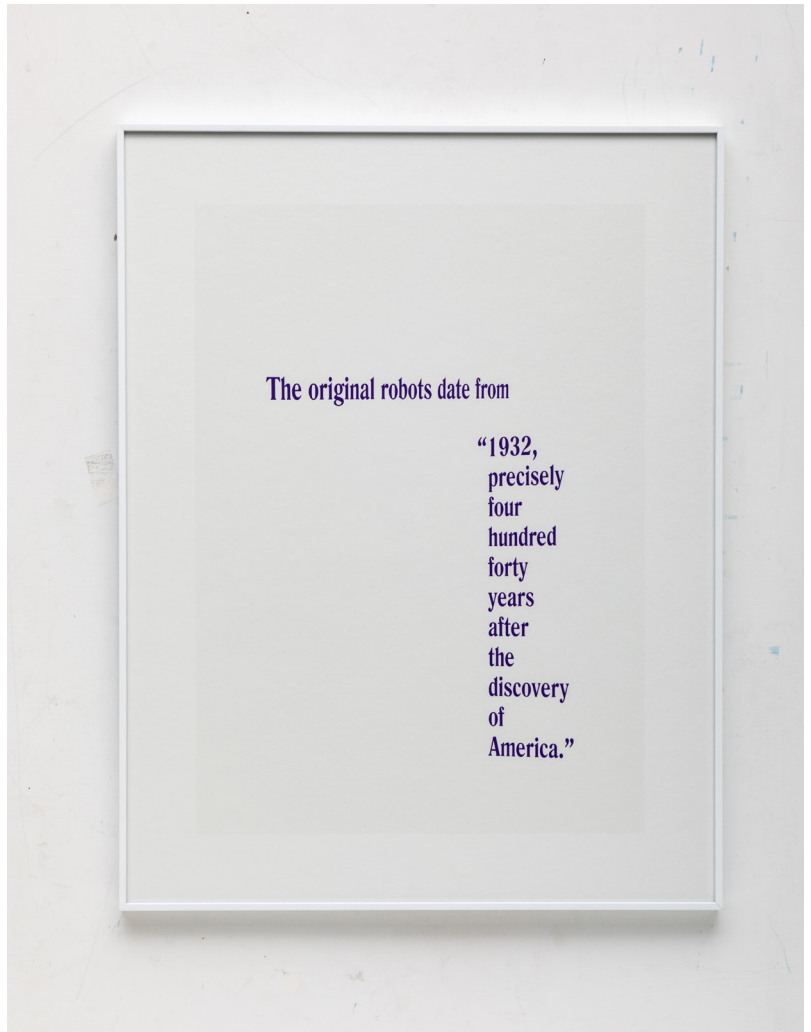
cm 52 x 40 cm each



Pedro Neves Marques, *Android Loop*, detail



Pedro Neves Marques, *Android Loop*, detail



Pedro Neves Marques, *Android Loop*, detail

Umberto Di Marino Gallery opened to the public in 1994 in Giugliano in Campania (Naples). Since then, the gallery immediately focuses its attention on the coexistence of an artistic language in a difficult periphery like the Neapolitan one. The first intention was to build a place of interest and participation, first for its own contacts and gradually for the whole community. Highlights of the gallery's history include the exhibitions: Napoli Borderline by Vettor Pisani (2001) and Architetture del colore by Hidetoshi Nagasawa (2002). In 2005 the gallery opened a new venue in the center of Naples, the program of which includes an alternation of exhibitions by young Italian and international artists. Over the years, Umberto Di Marino gallery has strengthened its research effort, concentrating on an analysis of the relationship between architecture, nature, anthropology and alternative lifestyles. A careful consideration of the territory and the support of the local institutions have allowed the creation of numerous off-site exhibitions in historic places of Naples. Nowadays the gallery occupies an historical building in the center of the city, where it also find place its collection and a few residencies for hosting the artists [Casa Di Marino] To date, the gallery boasts an entirely family management.

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