

Wilde

PRESS RELEASE

CLÉMENT LAMBELET: ANY PROGRESS?

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WILDE | GENEVA | PROJECT ROOM

In his exhibition *Any Progress?* Clément Lambelet explores the integration of human memory with technological devices, a phenomenon that is becoming more prevalent with each passing generation. Whereas our memories used to be stored in books and photo albums, today the effort to preserve them is delegated to the cloud, while dematerialising the traces of our lives.

In collaboration with EDHEA, this project is imbuing the Project Room with science fiction, and proposing a dozen works outlining the contours of an imaginary future. Here, the digital vestiges of our present-day humanity - photographs, shared images and selfies - mingle with technological artefacts originally intended to safeguard this data.

This transfer takes place both on copper, the material that powers all our technological devices, and on wood, which is subjected to laser engraving, creating a tension between the organic and the technological. Thanks to these mixtures of processes, memory makes a comeback in the material world.

When our desire to freeze the moment is combined with the possibilities offered by data centres, the boundaries between human and digital memory become blurred. Clément Lambelet links the two in his work, giving rise to new hybrid forms in which the SSD drive becomes an organic relic. The artist paralyses integrated screens, seizes on the imagery of electronic circuits and deprives them of their function.

The *Any Progress?* exhibition looks at the way in which a collective visual and textual memory is constructed and stored. It also raises the question of technological development and the risks associated with it: bugs, involuntary deletion of files, or disappearance in the process of merging with AI.

Through these works, the artist reminds us that those who outsource memory are all the more exposed to amnesia. It seems that all that remains of the four hundred thousand books in the Library of Alexandria is a cloud of smoke that has become the Cloud, responsible in turn for archiving the echoes of a present that has become the rattle of the past. It's up to humanity to rely on the future, the only witness to the future consequences of dematerialisation.