

METRO PICTURES

Oliver Laric

Year of the Dog

March 3 – April 14, 2018

Oliver Laric premieres a new video animation in "Year of the Dog," his first one-person exhibition in New York at Metro Pictures.

The animation continues his inquiry into concepts of metamorphosis, encompassing concerns about time and the complex dynamic between human and nonhuman lifeforms. Against a white background, linear animations of fish, fungi, and other figures move and change shape. The lines composing the animations continually extend or contract to zoom in on greater and greater detail, magnifying a sense of time as the images change. While the shapes and figures, as in his previous video works, are drawn from cartoons and Japanese anime, Laric's subject matter has grown to also include animations based on live footage. He constructed the animation via an exacting technique in which each line moves continually between sequences—in contrast with traditional techniques in which each sequence consists of a series of redrawn frames. As the shapes perpetually transform, an atmospheric soundtrack commissioned from musician Ville Haimala establishes the sense of an unfolding narrative.



The back gallery is devoted to three sculptures, all titled *Hundemensch*, cast in resin from the same mold. Distinguished by their color and varying degrees of transparency and opacity, each sculpture consists of a figure with the head of a dog and body of a human who crouches down, holding a smaller dog protectively in its arms. Outlines of a human ear, a frog, a salamander, and a crab are visible beneath the surface of the figures' transparent muscular backs. Unlike many of his previous works, these forms are not generated from an existing sculpture. Instead, Laric executed drawings based on a variety of anthropomorphic figures dating from prehistory to the 19th century. The artist then translated these drawings into a 3D model that was used to cast the sculptures.

Oliver Laric has upcoming one-person exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum; S.M.A.K., Ghent; and Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany. His exhibition "Panoramafreiheit" recently closed at the Schinkel Pavillon in Berlin. Past shows include: Secession, Vienna; the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland; Austrian Cultural Forum, London; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; and the MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Fridericianum, Kassel; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Kunstverein München; and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams. He participated in the 2016 Liverpool Biennial, and his untitled video (2014-15) was included in the 2015 New Museum Triennial. His work will be shown in the 2018 São Paulo Bienal, which opens in September.