

MUSEUM FOR A FUTURE  
ARCHEOLOGY OF THE ANTHROPOCENE





28 pieces of electronic circuit boards - 5 hard drives - 1 computer - 1 video tape recorder - 6 mobile phones - 1 turntable - 3 speakers - 1 compact disc player - 1 HIFI - 1 double rotary potentiometer - 1 clock - 1 global positioning system - 5 engine parts - 1 switch - 1 double wall plug - 4 copper coils - 16 electric copper cables - 2 magnetic components - over 60 batteries - 10 unidentified artefacts

*Turntable.* C-print - matt diasec - 70x60 cm. 2018.  
List of finds.

## MUSEUM FOR A FUTURE

The collection of the *Museum for a future* focuses on technological artefacts from the 20th and the 21st centuries found at low tide on the foreshore of the river Thames in London. Objects and detritus are tossed around for decades by the cyclic tidal movement, ending up merging with melted iron strata – markers of the capital's industrial past – giving them peculiar ageing.

Planned obsolescence together with people's greed for novelty are turning technological objects out-of-date at a growing pace, creating great amounts of waste and rendering, consequently, the archaeology of our contemporary society already visible. Hence, the artefacts of this collection are, in a way, memento mori of our civilisation.

So far, around 150 artefacts are inventoried in the collection, organized by sections. Each one is documented photographically through a single portrait as well as systematic hexptych compositions unfolding the specimen's different sides.

Several finds were put back in the river for their deterioration process to continue - and will be collected later. A couple of motorbike carcasses are waiting for an opportunity to leave the foreshore and be exhibited.



Motorbike carcass, Isle of Dogs, December 2018.



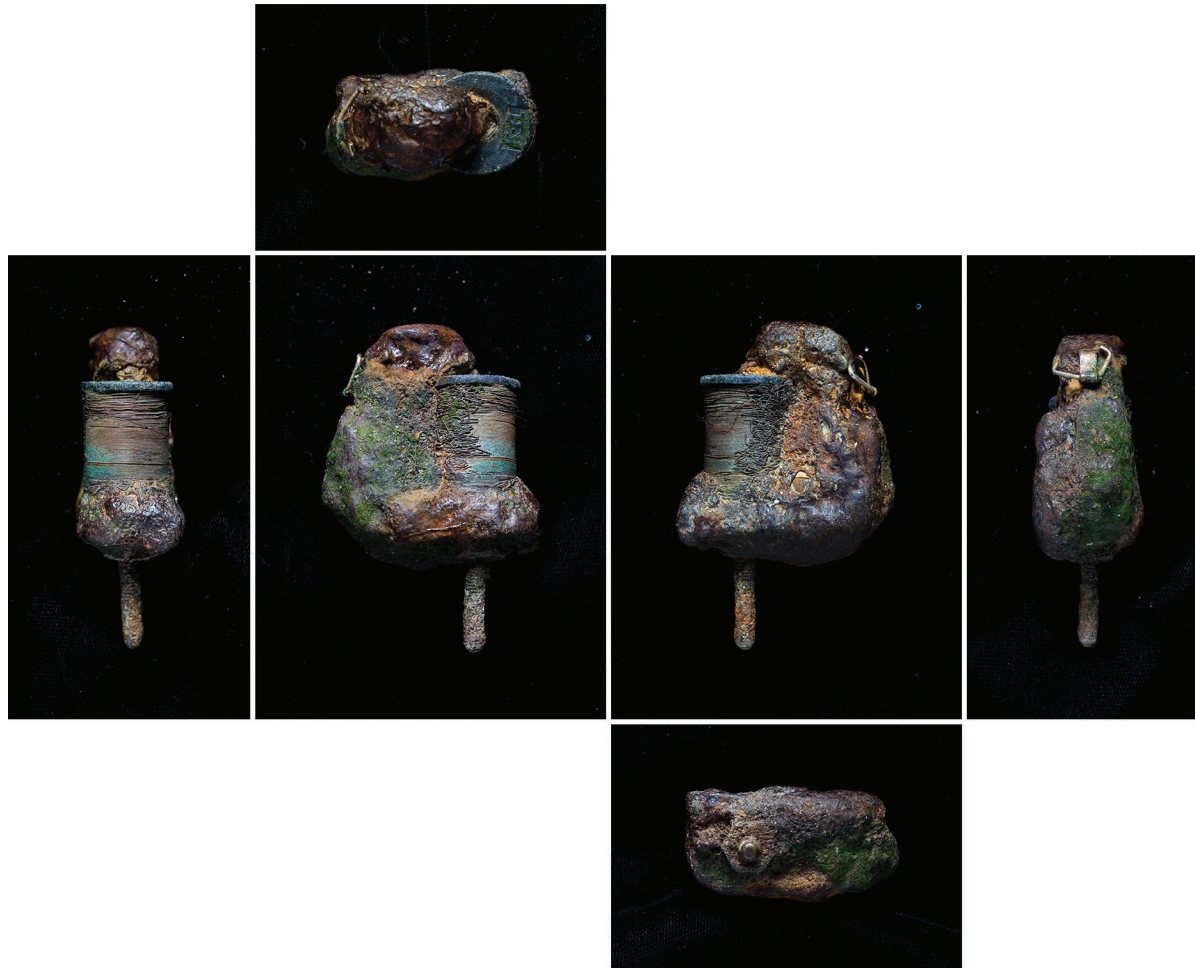
*Electronic circuit, 109x52x6 mm., 19 g., Deptford wharf, Deptford.*  
6 c-prints - matt diasec - 50x43 cm.





*Electronic circuit, 109x52x6 mm., 19 g., Deptford wharf, Deptford*  
6 c-prints - matt diasec - 95x51 cm.

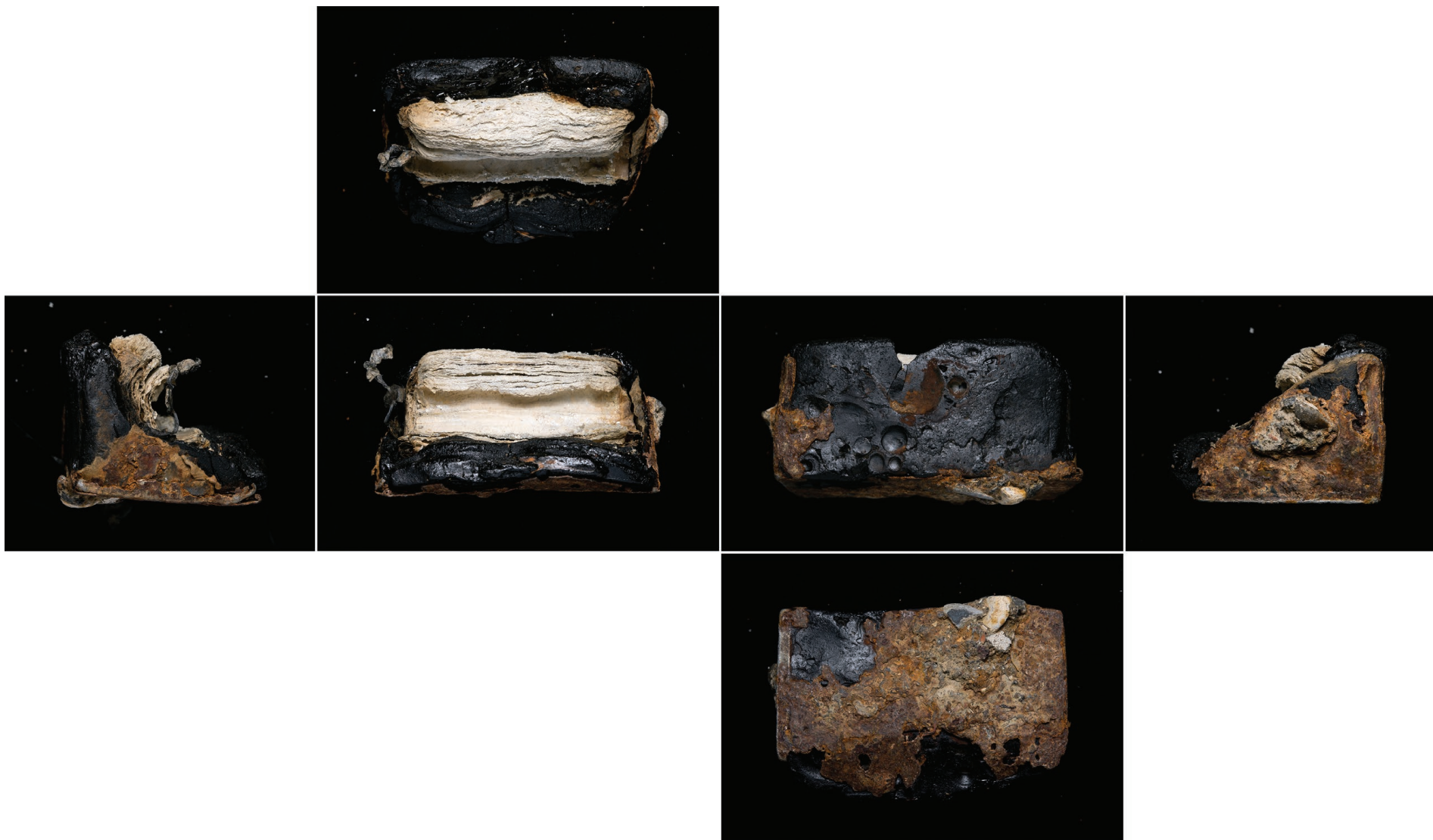




*Copper coil, 43x65x22 mm., 87 g., Ballast quay, Greenwich. 6*  
c-prints - matt diasec - 49x29 cm.



Battery, 23x53x16 mm., 14 g., Ballast quay, Greenwich. 6  
c-prints - matt diasec - 52x33 cm.



*Battery, 126x63x77 mm., 265 g., Ballast quay, Greenwich. 6*  
c-prints - matt diasec - 124x72 cm.





Mobile phone, 107x40x28 mm., 104 g. Deptford wharf, Deptford. 6  
c-prints - matt diasec - 83x53 cm.





*Thanatocenosis. Wood Warf, Greenwich. 2018.*  
C-print - matt diasec - 60x90 cm.

## THANATOCENOSIS

In parallel to the artefacts collection, the foreshore's sites presenting traces of the capital's industrial past are documented using single or multiple view compositions in order to cover small to large surfaces. The term *thanatocenosis* is borrowed from palaeontology and evokes the resemblance of these sites to the geological phenomenon where many organisms died and fossilised on the same spot. In the case of London's foreshores, the sites show a curious phenomenon of oxidized iron remnants that "melted" together, entrapping miscellaneous objects and thus appearing to look like fossils.



*Thanatocenosis. Burrels Warf, Millwall. 2018.*  
3 c-prints - matt diasec - 60x90 cm each.





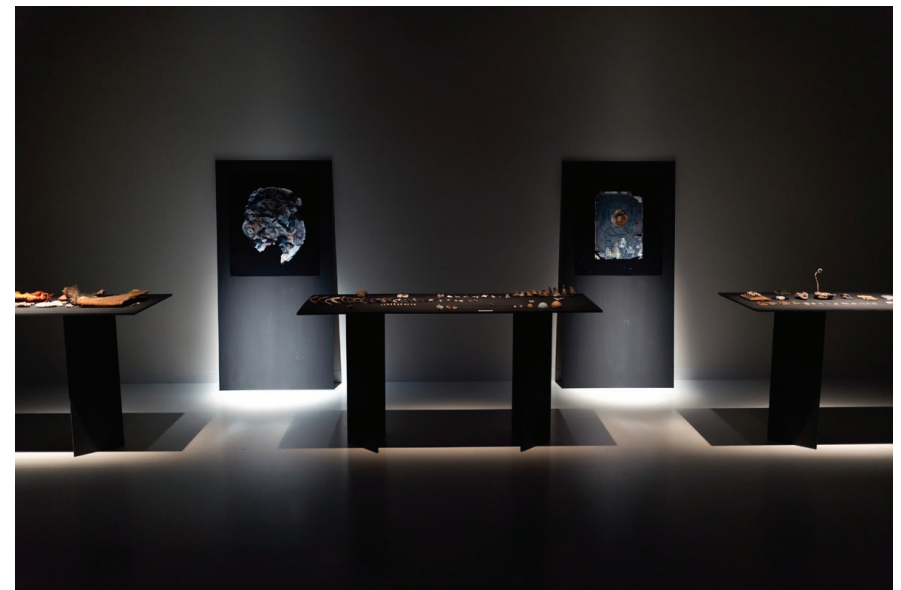
*Thanatocenosis. Burells Warf, Millwall. 2018.*  
2 c-prints - matt diasec - 50x75 cm each.



## EXHIBITION AT THE MIRAIKAN: THE MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

The *Museum for a future* was exhibited for the first time together with the *Tamesiology* project that won the ALife Art Award with its *pseudo-mineral* collection. The exhibition was hosted by the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Miraikan, in Tokyo, Japan. Therefore, it was obvious to exhibit part of the collection of the *Museum for a future* in that particular context: showing the afterlife of technological objects stresses the fact that this ignored side is part of their life cycle. Furthermore, many electronic items belonging to the collection were made in Japan, which closes up, in a way, these objects' life cycle, bringing them back where they were produced.

It is only after the exhibition that I learned that Miraikan means "museum of the future" in Japanese.



C-print - pinned on wood board - 70x80 cm.

Exhibition view of the ALife Art Award at the Miraikan, Tokyo. July 2018.



- 1: capacitors. 2: early computer chip. 3: unidentified (presumed mid-20th century radio set). 4: unidentified (presumed neon light system). 5: connection block. 6: disk of a hard drive. 7: hard drive. 8: magnet of a loud speaker. 9: loud speaker. 10, 11, 12: mobile phones, late 20th century-early 21st century. 13 to 26: electronic circuit boards. 27: unidentified type of battery. 28: lithium batteries from mobile phones. 29: Panasonic battery pack. 30: Polaroid AAA battery. 32: AAA batteries. 33: early mid-20th century battery. 34, 35, 36: AA batteries. 37: C type battery. 38: D type battery.



## ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS SECTION

The *Electronic circuits* section were exhibited in a group show in Tokyo among new media and technology-based artworks.

Turning the constraints of monstration part of the making of the work (the overseas shipping of the art piece with weight restriction), the 20 specimens constituting the *Electronic circuits* were displayed in the crate they were shipped in.



C-print - matt diasec - 55x64 cm.

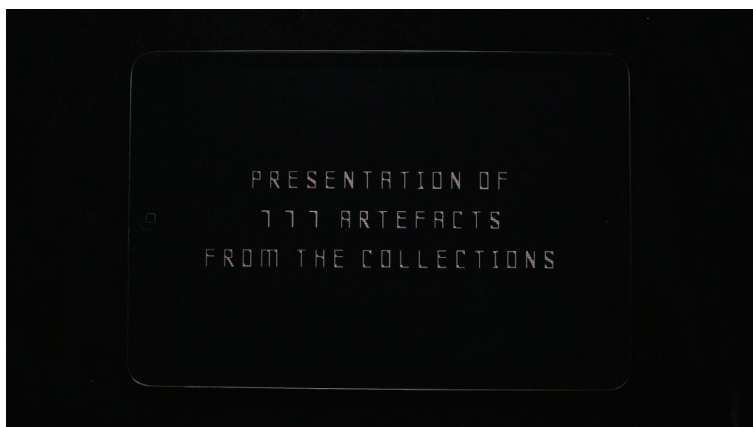
Exhibition view Polemica! organised by YouFab, Kudan House, Tokyo, February 2019.  
(pic.: Aya Suzuki)





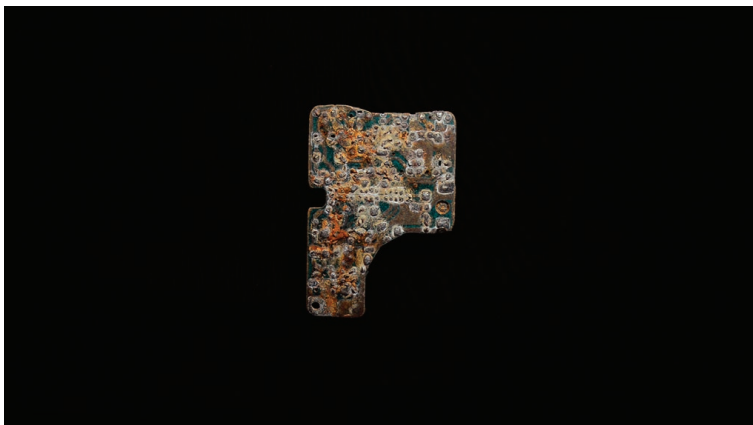
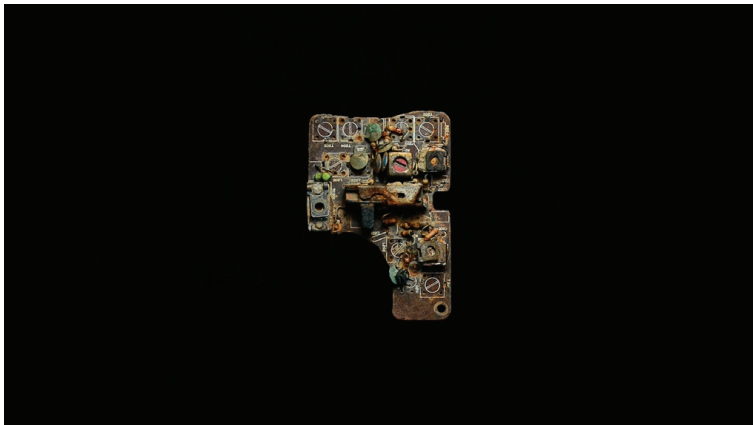
*Museum for a future: electronic circuits - 20 artefacts in a crate.*  
Found objects, wood crate - 45x35x9 cm - 2424gr. - 2019





## PRESENTATION OF 111 ARTEFACTS FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Alongside the Electronic circuits shown in Tokyo a video presented the Museum of the future's almost complete collection. The video is displaying slowly one by one 111 artefacts under the camera. Using the same methodology as the photographic documentation of the artefacts, the video animates, in a way, the sixtych-type photographs. The use of an electronic tablet in order to introduce each section's title, contrasts with the archaeological artefacts, although they belong, as a matter of fact, to the same era.

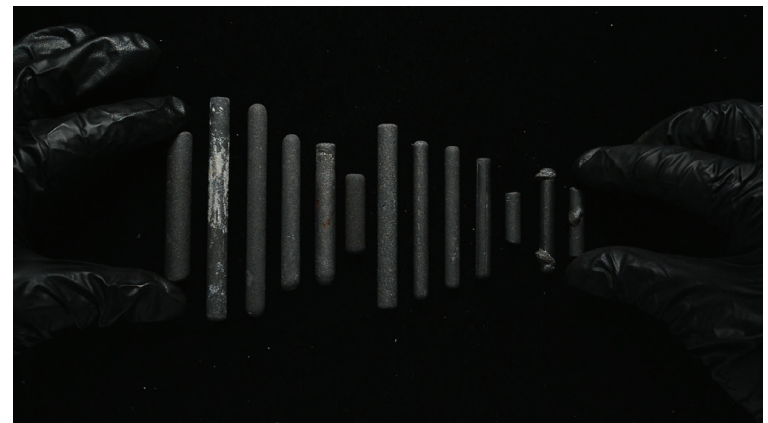
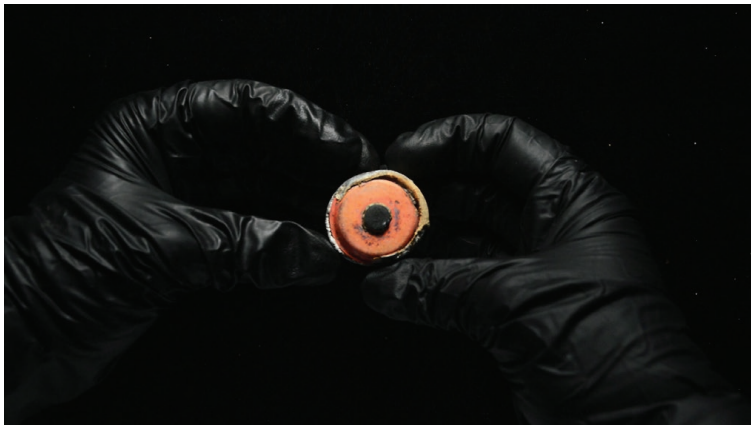


Stills: *Electronic circuits* section.



Stills: *Electronic circuits* section.





Stills: *Mobile telephony* section.  
*Batteries* section.  
*Coil* section.

Stills: *Electric cables* section.  
*Batteries* section.  
*Engines* section.

