



Dematerialising the art object

*I wonder what will this all look like in 50 years' time.
How will our cities will exhale then?
How will we wear our loss?
How will we sleep when we cannot turn off the alarm?*

**excerpt from "We have everything we need"
by Selina Nwulu, 2015-16 Young poet laureate for London*

Between 1967 and 1968 Lucy Lippard and John Chandler co-authored *The Dematerialization of Art*, an essay arguing that ideas would eventually replace art objects; the text would result in Lippard's seminal book on conceptual art under the title *Six Years: The Dematerialization of the Art Object from 1966 to 1972*. What if objects eventually become wholly obsolete, as the two writers wondered half a century ago? How has materiality and consumerism shaped not just contemporary societies but also art communities and their practices?

While environmentalists, academics and scientists work together with artists to conceive ways of a sustainable, resilient future in which materials and material waste will not pose a threat to earth's perseverance, as is the case with the recently created Future Materials Bank platform, others turn to AI in search of an alternative cognitive and creative process. On the occasion of the Onassis and British Council's *Circular Cultures: Material - Immaterial Edition* PCAI presents works from its Collection in an online exhibition under the title *Dematerialising the art object*. Participating artists are: James Bridle, Marcus Hanacam & Roswitha Schuller, Vassilis Karouk, Almagul Menlibayeva, Kosmas Nikolaou, Eva Papamargariti. The exhibition is curated by Kika Kyriakakou, PCAI Artistic Director.

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