

JULY 19-26, DAILY 10AM-10PM

MEDIA CAFÉ, JULY 19-26, 9:00PM

PUBLIC OPENING & PERFORMANCE JULY 17, 7:30PM

TECHNOLOGY ROUNDTABLE JULY 19, 7:45PM

Featured Artist

Vjeko Sager

(@vjekosager)



In exploration of the connections between human, art and technology, Vjeko will build a Divination Tower in Minoru Plaza as the centrepiece of this year's Your Kontinent Festival. He will live in the Tower for 7 days, from dawn to dusk, each day with a unique theme. From there, he will tweet, blog and video record his creative processes in real time and broadcast his thoughts on technology.

Join the conversation online or visit Vjeko at the Divination Tower. Drop by for an afternoon chat between 2-3pm, or come to the daily Media Cafe at 9pm to get a behind the scenes look at the theme of the day.

+++ The Featured Artist Program honours a Canadian artist whose practice has contributed significantly to the development of the media arts in Canada.



PHOTO CREDIT TO AMONA RA

THE END OF REASON

ESSAY BY YUN-JOU CHANG

Vjeko Sager is an artist, philosopher, educator and curator. Best described as an architect of the mind, his work has been awarded, exhibited and represented in public and private collections throughout the world.

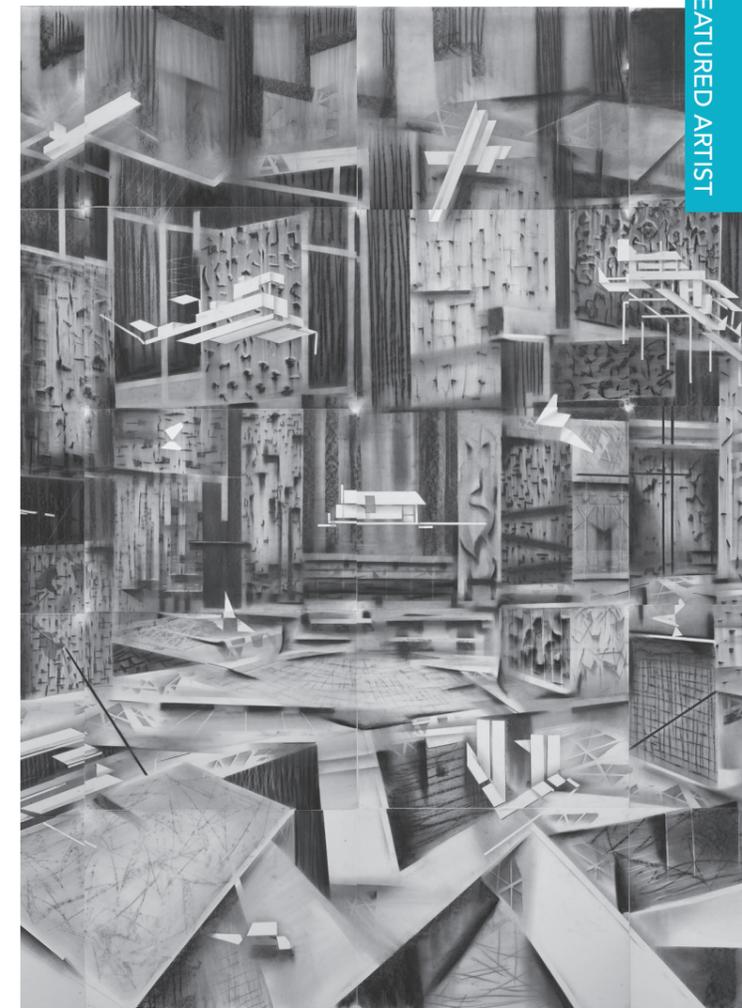
Armed with nothing but paper and charcoal, Vjeko creates imagined cities, fictive spaces, and alternate dimensions in bold, incisive strokes. Each line cuts across the page with the precision of a surgeon's knife, betraying no hint of uncertainty or hesitation. It produces a curious sensation, then, when the observer finally realizes that this perfectly executed geometry is, in fact, a study in dead ends and impossible spaces: roads that lead nowhere, doors that open into nothingness, and signs which mislead and confound more than they direct.

These carbon-etched worlds and structures are utopic in the original Greek sense of a 'not place,' *ou topos*. They are spaces that do not exist; however, they are far from idyllic (the more commonly acknowledged definition of utopia). Instead, these images represent ruptures, disturbances, and interruptions that produce a break in the midst of a seemingly orderly system. Captured and suspended in time, these moments of conflict and collision reveal the tenuous hold that current human systems of control have upon reality, technology being one of them.

Vjeko is an artist who rejects comforting visions. He refuses simple answers offered by figures of authority or dictated by common sense, believing that they numb us to the complexity of reality and blind us to possibility. Instead, his art and his philosophy constantly push against the boundaries of what we think we know. The breaks in linearity in his art work signify the end of reason, and challenge us to discover what lies in the space beyond.

Asked how he would describe his practice, Vjeko calls it "magic." For him, art is a way of accessing truth, the essence of things as they are rather than what they seem to be. "When you break past the limit of the senses," he says, "you are where the creativity starts. This is the moment of inspiration..."

In Vjeko's conception of art, the artist is merely a medium for the mysterious and unfettered energy of the universe. He or she is only a creator insofar as they perform the act of creation. But in this process they are subservient to an idea or a force,



FEATURED ARTIST

something ineffable and intangible which might burst into the mind unannounced and dissipate just as quickly. Being of an "obsessive" mind, Vjeko pursues this creative force systematically. To prepare himself for art, Vjeko designs games, develops rituals, and seeks out spaces that serve to carve out a space within himself where the creative force can then reside.

In many ways, the *Divination Tower* captures the essence of that meditative process. What began as a playful attempt to live out his childhood dream of being a solitary lighthouse keeper morphed into the notion of a media tower broadcasting creativity from the heart of the city, before finally taking shape as a *Divination Tower* that points the way to enlightenment. Inspired by the story of the stylites, ascetic saints who lived alone on pillars while preaching, fasting and praying, the *Divination Tower* is a secular interpretation of an ancient practice meant to bring one closer to the spiritual world.

From July 19 to 26, Vjeko will live atop the *Divination Tower*, from which he will tweet, blog and video transmit his creative process from dusk to dawn. Over the course of seven days, he will embody seven different modes of being. Each day will be carefully curated, from the clothes that he wears to the food that he eats, from the nature of the art work that he produces to the means by which he creates them. Join the Your Kontinent Festival for a wild journey through the unknown as Vjeko begins his quest to explore the relationship between **Human | Art | Technology**.