

Atelier Van Lieshout



Humanoids (2019)

A T E L I E R V A N L I E S H O U T

Atelier Van Lieshout has vast experience with art in the public space and relishes the challenges that accompany the process. For any public art commission, Atelier Van Lieshout works in close collaboration with the commissioner and local authorities that deal with art, safety, durability and the maintenance of public facilities. In the case of the *Humanoids*, this was with a variety of Miami's Dade's departments.

Atelier Van Lieshout is used to working with and in challenging environments and has many different solutions in its roster. The sculptures in Miami are placed at a very difficult location with regular flooding and a salt sea breeze that can cause corrosion with a neighboring school in close proximity. In consultation with the appointed officials, studies were made to determine the fixation and foundation of the pieces and the use of marine grade cast aluminium. An open and brushed finish was chosen to keep vandalism, wear and maintenance to a minimum.

Miami Beach Arts & Culture selected AVL as one of a handful of artists to create new work for the Miami Beach Convention Center. *Humanoids*, was commissioned by the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places and is now permanently installed in the Collins Canal Park.



Joep van Lieshout: “*Humanoids* invite people to see the human soul in natural and manmade objects”



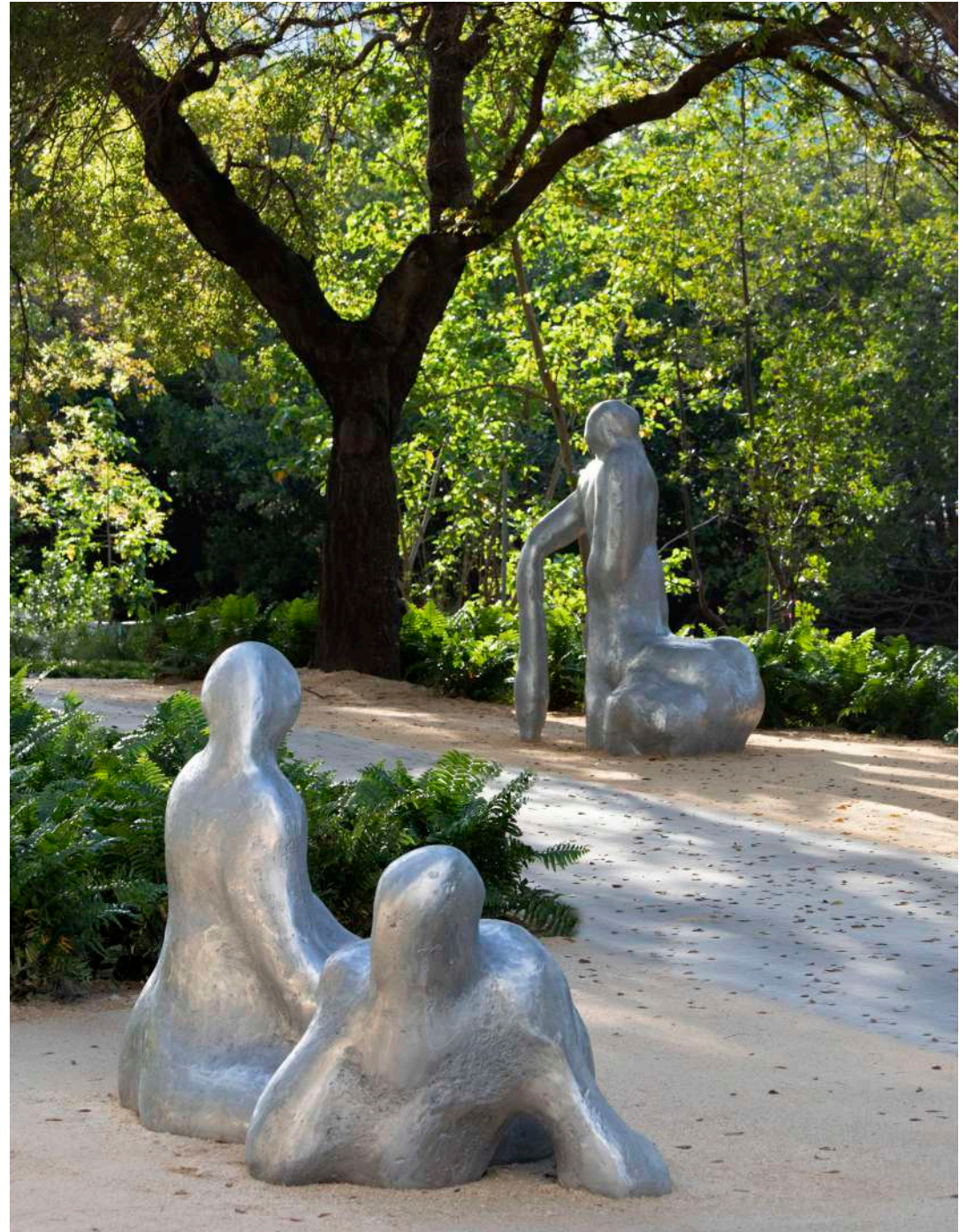
Joep van Lieshout: “*Humanoids* invite people to see the human soul in natural and manmade objects”



HUMANOIDS

They look familiar, but aren't quite human. The *Humanoids* have recognisable yet blurred features that suggest an early sidestep from the path of human evolution, bringing us closer to our own origin and essence. They invite active engagement, inviting us to sit in their laps or get a piggy-back ride.

Joep van Lieshout started making the *Humanoids* in 2015, after a lengthy period of creating utilitarian design, installations and abstract sculptures that dealt with mobility, autarky and sovereignty. The wish to focus on the central and unifying factor in these works – man himself – inspired a shift to figuration. The first figurative works named *AVL Men* (1999), were stark archetypal figures, almost like 3D pictograms. They increasingly grew more organic, with smooth skin and morphed extremities, like the group permanently on display at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Collins Canal Park. They look like heaps of coagulated lava, from the earth's core, spewed out by the elemental forces of nature.



CARETAKERS

Compassion is a typically human emotion. It allows us to care for each other, take pity on the unfortunate, nurse the ill and console the sad. It's also a classic theme in art history. Empathy is also an ongoing theme in Joep van Lieshout's work and has often returned to this theme, sometimes placing caretakers in dystopian and utopian contexts as a hopeful beacon of empathy and selflessness. They represent what's best in mankind and what sets them apart from animals.

Aluminium

185 x 100 x 120 cm
73 x 39 x 47 inch



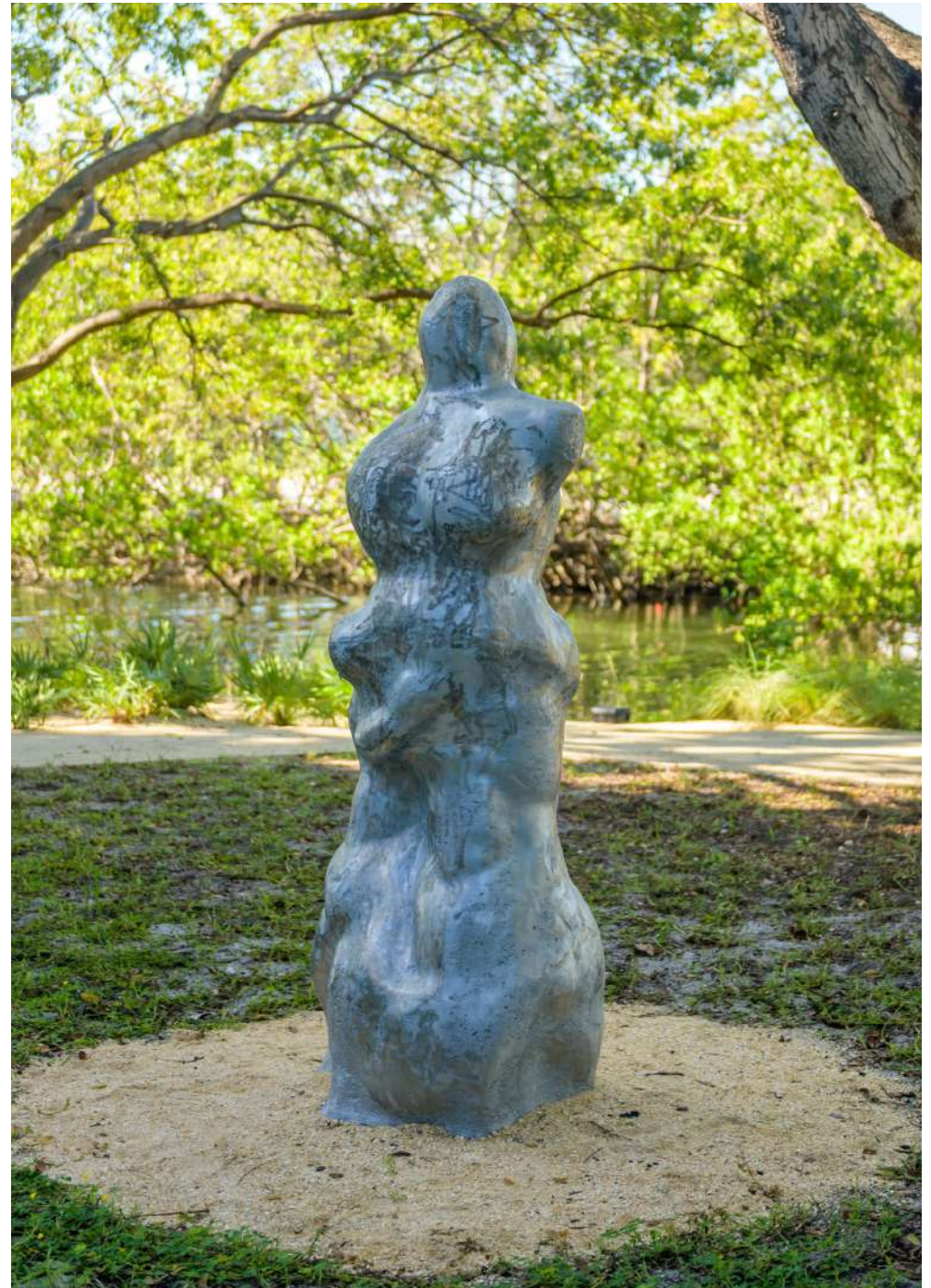
M O T H E R V E N U S

The earliest human artworks were fertility statues celebrating life, love and prosperity. The oldest on record are the *Venus* of Hohle Fels and the *Venus* of Willendorf, believed to date back some 30,000 years. These depictions of women have exaggerated hips and breasts, stressing their reproductive strength. Joep van Lieshout's *Mother Venus* is fused with her baby in a depiction of human connection and motherly love.

"In this *Mother Venus* a child and mother are fused as one."
- Joep van Lieshout

Aluminium

100 x 75 x 200 cm
39 x 30 x 79 inch



H A N D

Hands are not only used to give, take, hit, squeeze, dig and reach out, but also to communicate. In Joep van Lieshout's vision the hand becomes a symbol for care or the invisible force controlling the world and its inhabitants.

"A hand that takes care of us or the invisible hand that controls the world and its inhabitants. "

- Joep van Lieshout

Aluminium

270 x 175 x 140 cm
106 x 69 x 55 inch



ANIMAL

Atelier Van Lieshout

The oldest known dog burial dates back to 14,200 years ago, suggesting that - by that time - dogs were firmly installed as man's best friend. Joep van Lieshout pays homage to man's best friend and eternal companion: a doggy.

Aluminium

300 x 100 x 100 cm
118 x 39 x 39 inch

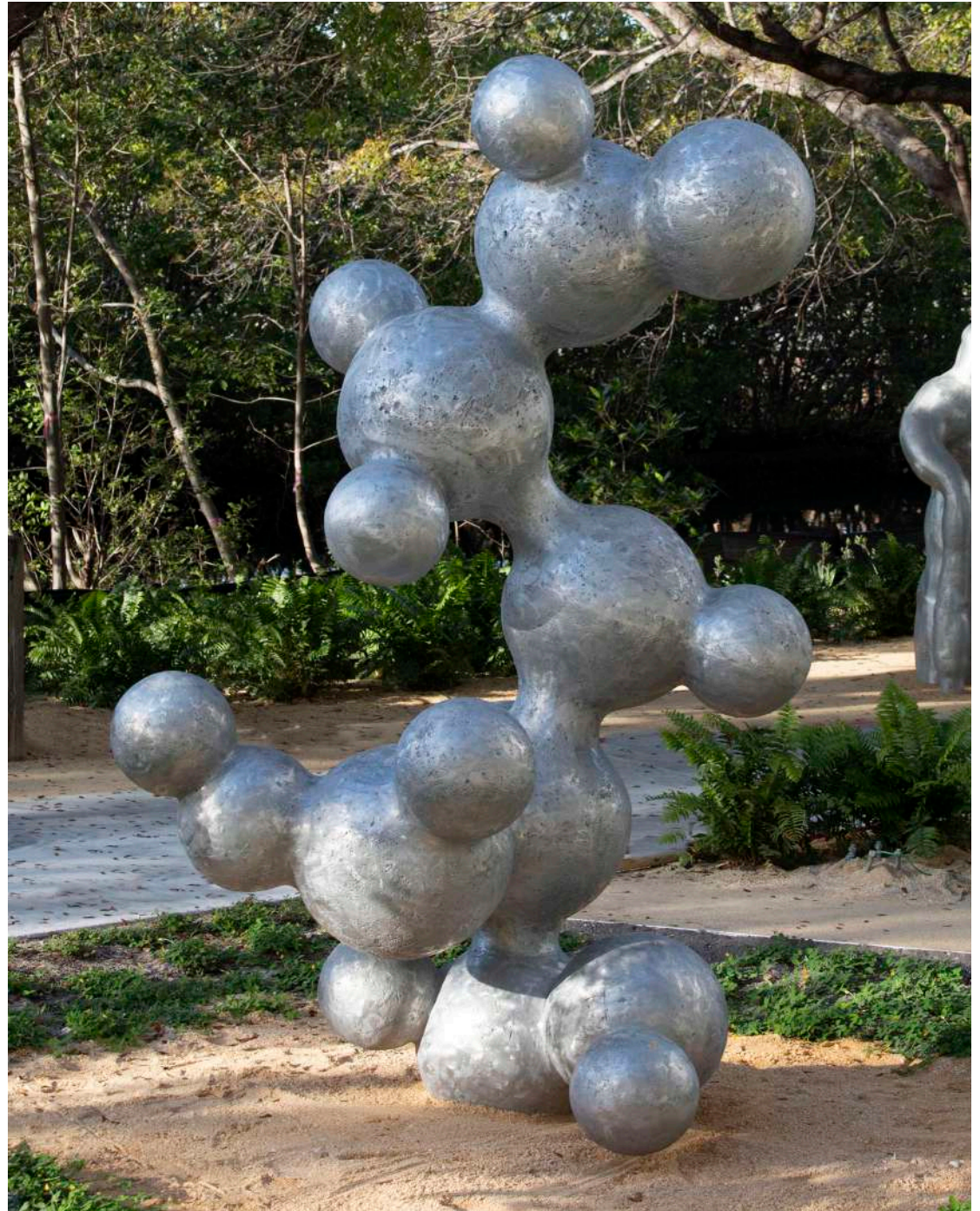


B E G I N N I N G O F E V E R Y T H I N G

The Beginning of Everything represents Glucose ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), the primary source of energy for human life. It is created by plants during photosynthesis where sunlight transforms water and carbon dioxide into sugar. Glucose is the fuel for our body, muscles and brain. Energy is the vital force which drives our world, brings it its color, its joy, its vibrancy, its life. It is literally 'the beginning of everything'.

Aluminium

100 x 140 x 275 cm
39 x 55 x 108 inch



T O G E T H E R

Humanity conquered the world by manipulating and controlling nature. This process of domestication opened doors to new possibilities. Humans not only subjugated plants, animals and natural forces, but even physically incorporated them. This form of opportunistic phagocytosis varies from using pig hearts for transplants to injecting nanotechnology. The ultimate way to rule the world is to become one with it.

Aluminium

300 x 125 x 220 cm
118 x 49 x 87 inch

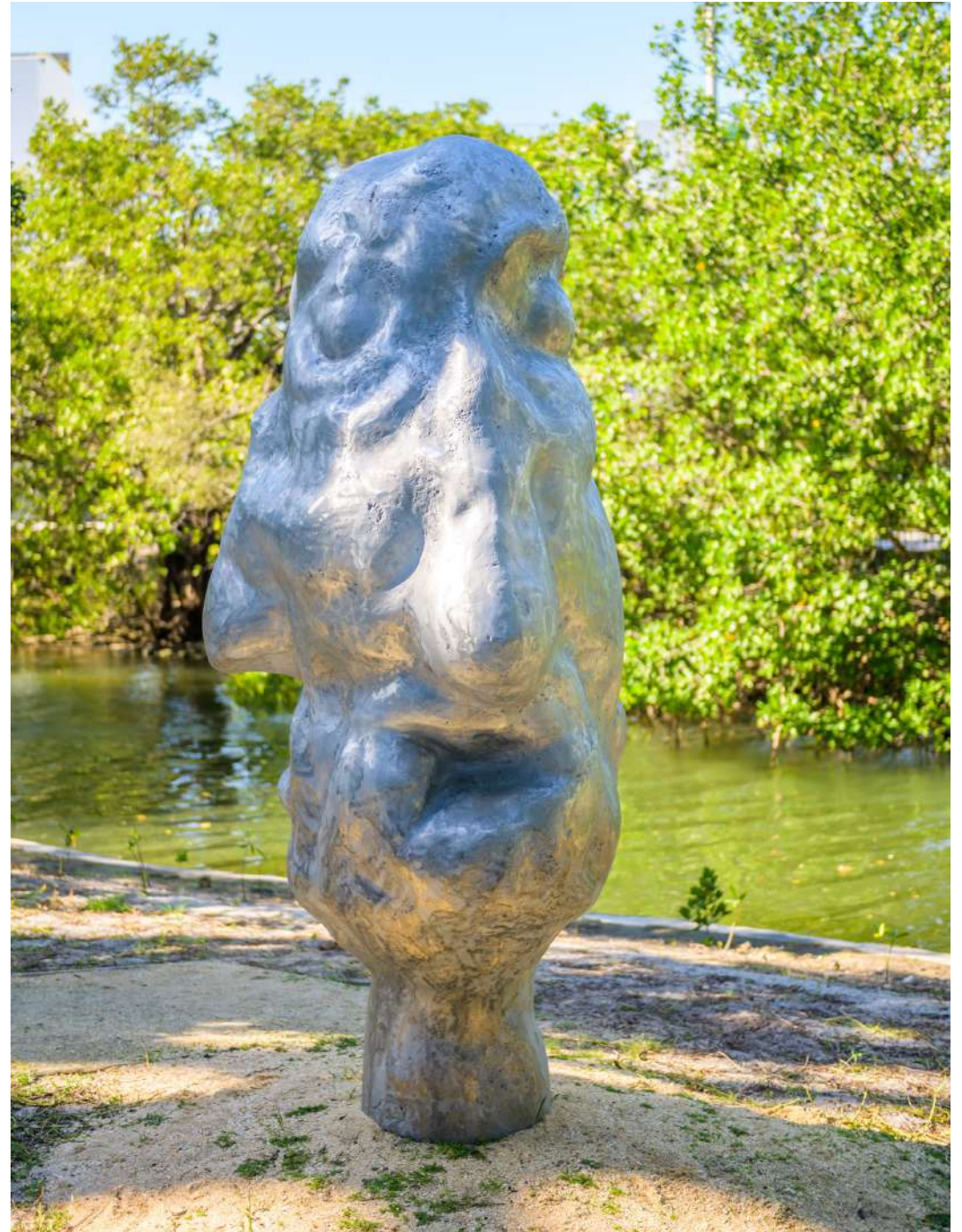


M U L T I F A C E

Janus is the ancient Roman god of beginnings, transitions and time. He is often depicted as having two faces, looking in opposite directions. Joep van Lieshout's *Multiface* has even more eyes, mouths and noses, providing it with a 360 degree perspective. It not only looks into the future and the past, but sees and hears all. This biomorphic portrait represents the many faces of mankind or as the sculptor likes to say: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Aluminium

80 x 140 x 250 cm
32 x 55 x 98 inch



9 9 %

99% is an imaginary molecule that combines the atoms that make up 99% of the human body. These atoms - Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Calcium, Nitrogen and Phosphorus, are put together to form a sculptural figure that is standing firm, is elegant and speaks to our imagination. "This is playful set of atoms is a human" This abstract portrait of humanity also questions what we are, what composition makes us human.

Aluminium

130 x 120 x 275 cm
51 x 47 x 108 inch

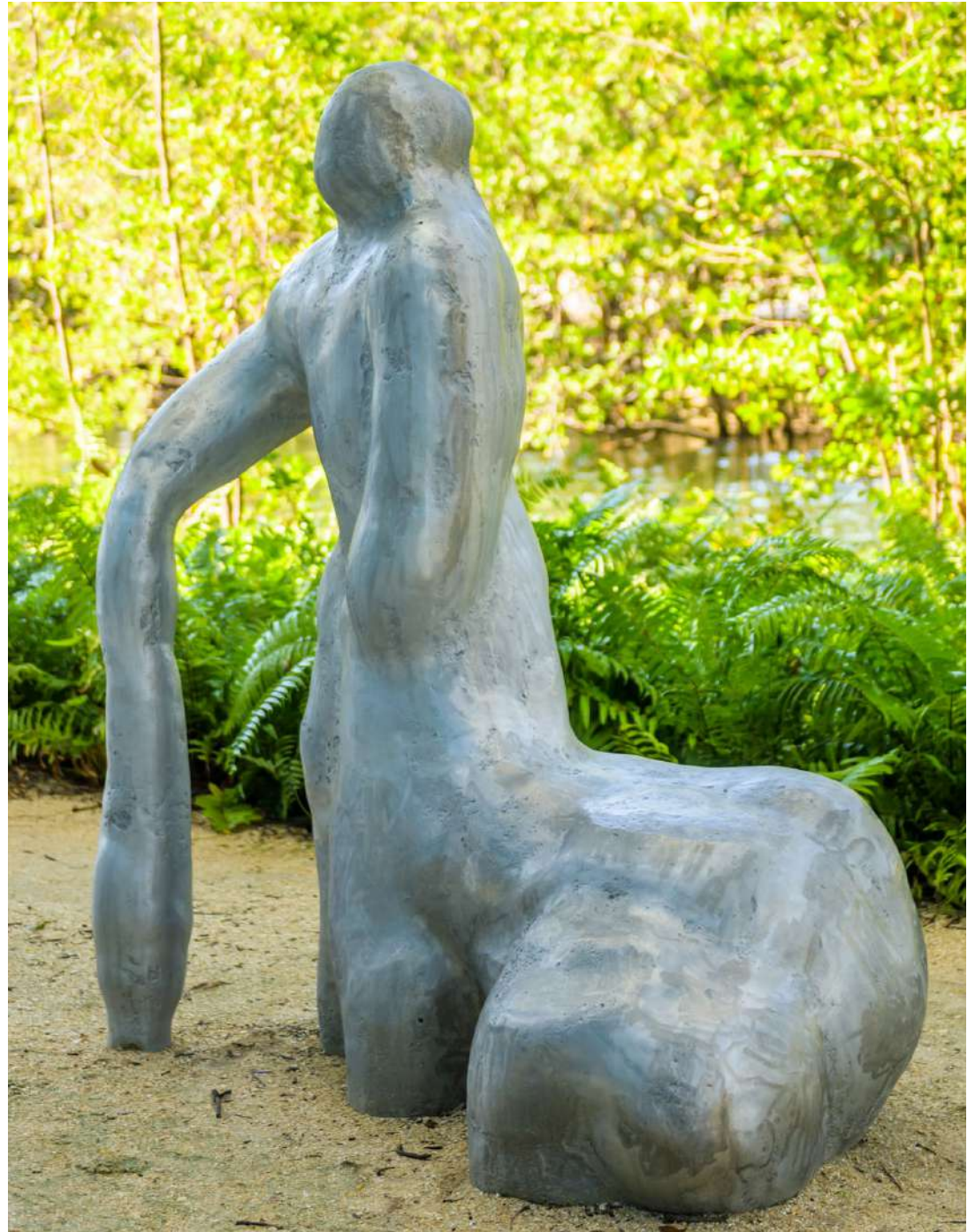


PRIMITIVIST

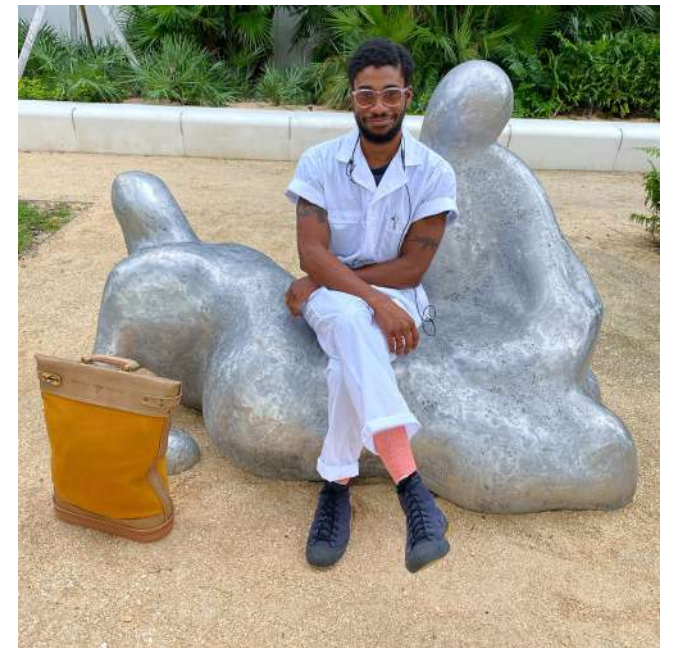
Man and his first invention: the club. It was the first of many tools to improve life and change the way we live, think and act. As relatively vulnerable creatures they had to be smart to increase their chances of survival. Among the earliest tools were clubs and palstaves. Great for hunting, digging and cutting roots, but these primitive tools were soon also used as weapons against other humans. The club was followed by the plow, wheel, steam engine and nowadays genetic manipulation and big data. *Primitivist* reflects questions that are omnipresent in Joep van Lieshout's work and deal with evolution, technology and the way progress impacts human life and nature. Does technological advancement help or hinder us? And should we continue rushing towards the future or return to a more primitive time?

Aluminium

200 x 110 x 175 cm
79 x 43 x 46 inch



FUNCTIONAL SCULPTURE



H U M A N S L O V E H U M A N O I D S



M O R E I N F O

Atelier Van Lieshout (AVL) is the studio practice of Rotterdam-based artist Joep van Lieshout. Since its founding in 1995 Van Lieshout has been working solely under the studio's name as a methodology towards undermining the myth of the artistic genius. Over the past three decades AVL produced a multitude of works on the border of art, design, and architecture. These works share a number of recurring themes and obsessions, such as systems, power, autarky, sex and life and death. AVL is internationally renowned for sculptural installations which harbour a controversial, sinister and playful tone.

Van Lieshout's works have been included in the Gwangju, Venice, Yokohama, Christchurch, Shanghai and São Paulo biennials. AVL is in part of the permanent collections of public and private institutions such as: FNAC, Paris; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Prada Foundation, Milan; Ludwig Forum, Aachen; Folkwang Museum, Essen; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich.

Website Atelier Van Lieshout

Press [here](#)

Selection of Atelier Van Lieshout books

Press [here](#)

Selected press

[Frieze](#) about the exhibition *CryptoFuturist and the New Tribal Labyrinth*

[ArtNet](#) about the exhibition *CryptoFuturist and the New Tribal Labyrinth*

[CNN](#) about artwork *CasAnus*

[Wikipedia](#) about artwork *Funky bones*

[ArtNet](#) about artwork *Domestikator*

[ArtForum](#) about exhibition *The Invisible Hand*

[Wallpaper](#) about Atelier Van Lieshout

Current exhibitions

[Blast Furnace](#), Art OMI, Ghent NY, (USA)

25 May 2019 – Winter 2021

[Kunst aan de Schinkel](#), Soledad Senlle Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL)

25 July 2021 – 1 April 2022

[Oil – Beauty and Horror in the Petrol Age](#), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg (DE)

4 September 2021 – 9 January 2022

[World Expo 2020](#), The Netherlands Pavilion, Dubai (UAE)

1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022

[Opening Exhibition](#), ROOF-A, Rotterdam (NL)

4 November 2021 – 1 May 2022

[EHBO](#), Galerie Ron Mandos, Amsterdam (NL)

13 November 2021 – 8 January 2022

Video about H u m a n o i d s

