

TANYA LEIGHTON

PRESS RELEASE

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ALEKSANDRA DOMANOVIĆ

*THE FUTURE WAS AT HER FINGERTIPS*

27 April - 30 June, 2013

Preview: 26 April, 6 - 9pm

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Tanya Leighton is very pleased to announce *The Future Was at Her Fingertips*, an exhibition with Berlin-based artist Aleksandra Domanović. This is Domanović's first solo show at the gallery.

In *The Future Was at Her Fingertips* Domanović explores the circulation and reception of images and information, relating specifically to the history of the Internet and technology in the former Yugoslavia. The exhibition draws attention to one of the earliest attempts to develop an artificial limb with the sense of touch – known as the 'Belgrade Hand'. Invented by Rajko Tomović at the end of the Second World War as a prosthetic device intended for soldiers who had lost their hands in the war, it was then further developed by scientists at MIT. The prosthetic later starred in Donald Cammell's 1977 Hollywood movie *Demon Seed* where a scientist created 'Proteus' – an organic super computer with artificial intelligence who became obsessed with human beings.

In tracing the history of Tomović's hand Domanović uncovered just how important women were in the development of the creation of the Internet, Cybernetics, virtual reality and multimedia. From Ada Lovelace who wrote what is considered to be the first computer programme, to Sadie Plant's work on the social potential of cyber-technology, to the registration of the .yu domain by Slovenian Internet pioneer Borka Jerman Blazić, Domanović charts a history in which women are the unsung heroes of technical innovation.

For the exhibition at Tanya Leighton, Domanović commissioned a fully rigged computer model of the 'Belgrade Hand', from which she has made five 3D printed sculptures in various gestures and symbols from diverse cultural traditions and historical timeframes – from an Indian symbol of immortality and love, to a closed fist, to one that resembles a Spanish reliquary from the 16th century. Made out of plastic, then filled with polyurethane and coated with brass, aluminum, and 'soft-touch' – a recently developed material used by car manufacturers to lend a feel of quality to interiors – these works, as well as a new ink-jet print by Domanović, can be seen as

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monuments to both technological innovation and the contribution women have made in this field.

Domanović was born in 1981 in Novi Sad, former Yugoslavia. She has exhibited widely with solo exhibitions in 2012 at Kunsthalle Basel (curated by Adam Szymczyk); Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France; SPACE, London; and Tanya Leighton, Berlin. Domanović was commissioned to create a large-scale public sculpture for the 4th Marrakech Biennale in 2012. Other recent exhibitions include: 'The Best of Times, The Worst of Times – Rebirth and Apocalypse In Contemporary Art', The First Kiev Biennale, Kiev (2012); 'In Practice', SculptureCenter, New York (2012); 'Les Cadeaux Du Présent', Centre d'art Neuchâtel, France (2011); 'based in Berlin', Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (2011); and 'Free', New Museum, New York (2010). Her work has been written about in numerous publications including ArtForum, FriezeArt Review, and Kaleidoscope. Domanović lives and works in Berlin.

For further information please contact [info@tanyaleighton.com](mailto:info@tanyaleighton.com) or telephone 49 (0)30 221 60 777. Gallery open from Tuesday – Saturday 11 – 6pm and by appointment.