



© DON MILICI

Stas Orlovski's *Chimera* utilizes charcoal, ink, Xerox transfer, and collage. The result is animated and then projected onto museum walls.

ANTIQUÉ SENSIBILITIES FOR NEW AGE

Stas Orlovski: Chimera, on view at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, is a timely complement to the de Young's AI exhibition. The Moldova-born, Los Angeles-based artist, whose work was shown at the 2015 Venice Biennale, has been working at the intersection of technologies old and new for the past 26 years, fusing antique sensibilities with new age methods by creating animations that are projection-mapped onto and into found objects. "I wanted to make something that wasn't contained, that didn't have a border or a frame," Orlovski said in 2014 of his inspiration for *Chimera*. "So I thought if I project onto a wall and make a moving drawing—not really a film or an animation but a drawing that moved...maybe that would be OK."

The show is more than OK. It's a mesmerizing installation that dances across adjacent gallery walls inspired by magical 18th- and 19th-century phantasmagoria shows. On one side, a collaged trio of female silhouettes; on another, an old-fashioned oval mirror seems to reflect a moonlit waterfall, plant life, birds, and hand-drawn patterns.

Orlovski feels the pull of history and uses an unabashed "iconography of nostalgia." The de Young's AI exhibition, on the other hand, peers into the near future to address what being human means in an age of increasing automation and replication. Looking back, or looking forward, both of these compelling shows encourage us to track how we're relating to these amalgams of pattern and data—with our heads or with our hearts.

Jessica Zack is a San Francisco-based arts journalist and writes regularly for the San Francisco Chronicle.

UNCANNY VALLEY: BEING HUMAN IN THE AGE OF AI

- Feb. 22–Oct. 25
- de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco
- deyoung.famsf.org

STAS ORLOVSKI: CHIMERA

- Through Mar. 22
- San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, 560 S. 1st St., San Jose
- sjica.org

