

METRO PICTURES

Woytus, Amanda. "Visit Artist Oliver Laric's 'Reclining Pan' at SLAM, and 3-D Print One of Your Own," *STLMag.com* (February 21, 2019).

St.Louis



Oliver Laric, Austrian, born 1981; "Betweenness," 2018

Starting February 22, visitors to the Saint Louis Art Museum's "Currents 116" program will get a glimpse of Berlin-based artist Oliver Laric's works—and even possibly create one of their own using a 3-D plan.

Laric is displaying two video works, *Betweenness* and *Untitled* (part of the New Media series, in the Main Building), as well as a sculpture, *Reclining Pan*, made of polymide and polyurethane. "Prior to coming," the artist says, "I looked online, and *Pan* immediately stood out to me. I've been, over the years, doing a lot of work where I look at figures that are in between states. So something which is not clearly human, not clearly an animal," he says. Laric has scanned other *Pans* before; however, what makes St. Louis' special is that it hasn't always been this particular sculpture. The SLAM *Pan* has a history.

Reclining Pan is attributed to the Renaissance sculptor Francesco da Sangallo, but Sangallo, who used the marble as part of a fountain, took the piece from an ancient statue. Laric was drawn to these previous lives. His plans for *Pan* include taking the 3-D scan and making it available to the public through his website—anybody can download and use it, printing *Pan* if they have access to a 3-D printer.

"At the moment, this piece of marble is in a museum in St. Louis, but you know, it could have another incarnation in the future. And, in this case, it does have a different incarnation because by scanning, it becomes accessible to a different audience of people, not just to look at it, but to become active and do something with it."

He continues: "That's kind of the exciting part for me is that most of my activities, technical preparation, and then other people do things with it. And I have no idea what will happen. Some of the scans I've made have turned up in a Nicki Minaj video or they've turned up in Hollywood movies or a Netflix trailer or all types of places, and I just randomly encountered them because people don't tell me about it, I just see them."

Before you look at Laric's *Pan*, visit its inspiration in gallery 236. After, walk to the gallery next door for *Betweenness*, a short video work that shows animated line drawings of nature objects—a human and a donkey, a dinosaur, a leaping deer, CT scans of a mummy at the museum and the artist's knee—morphing into one another. The mood of the two works together is thoughtful, engrossing. Is there a reason for using them side by side?

"It's just kind of the two things that I do," the artist says with a laugh.