

# POP

The object known as **POP** was built by **CARLO BORER** for the exhibition **I AM Alien** at *Kunstverein Olten*.

It was conceived as a space-filling installation based on UN data pertaining to population growth from 0 – 2050.

At Galerie Radial Art, you see an excerpt featuring 0 – 2020.

## I AM ALIEN

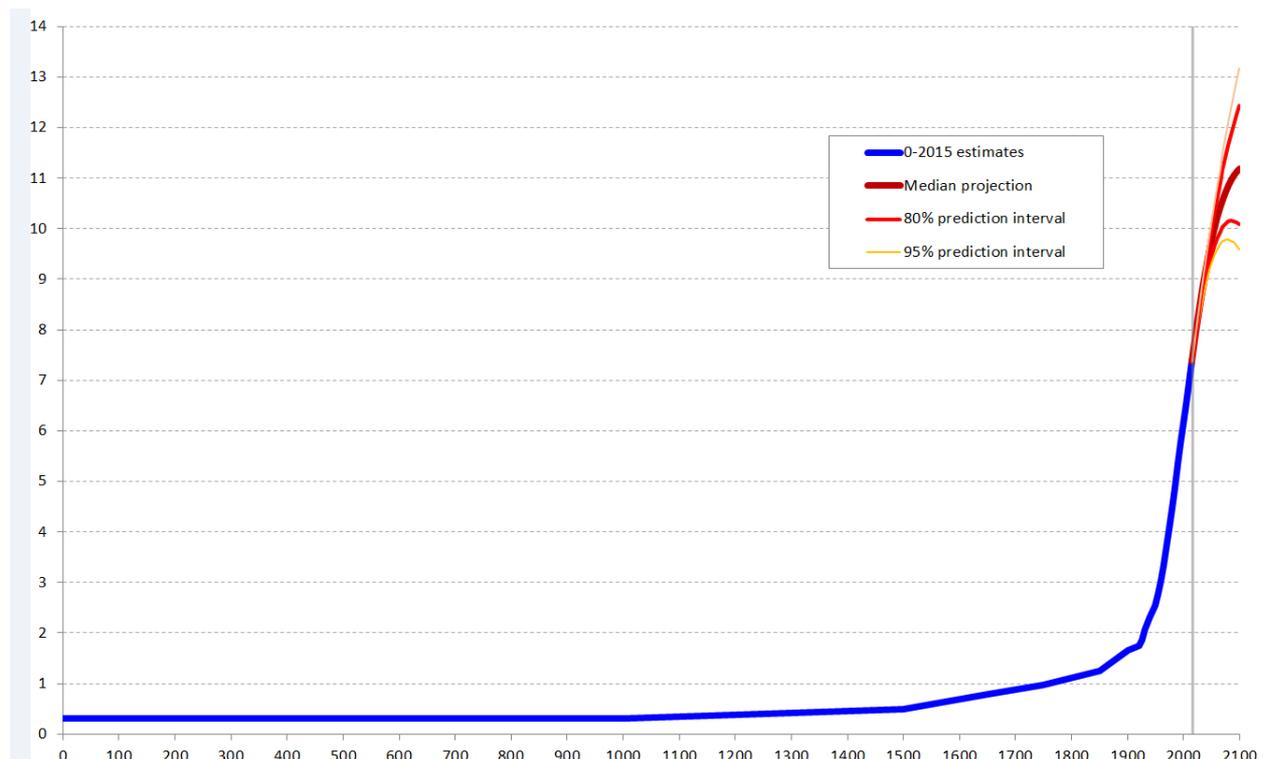
The title *I AM ALIEN* refers to a species that destroys the foundations of its own life and livelihood, and thus, out of necessity, desires to colonize other planets. In doing so, it is willing to risk the destruction of existing life on other planets. Simply put, it emerges as a colonial power, much like the way Europeans behaved in Africa or the two Americas.

## POP

### The data basis provided by the UN

Inside of around 200 years, the population has increased eightfold from 1 billion to nearly 8 billion. Prior to this, the estimated population density had been around 1/3 billion over the millennia.

The worst-case scenario reckons with a further doubling in the next 100 years.



Overpopulation creates prosperity and luxury for a portion of the population.

Besides being unfair, the price to be paid is the destruction of the earth and thus, the basis of our livelihood.

We will painfully experience that the term **Evolution** has no inherent goal. Rather, **Evolution** is merely the description of a development towards temporary balances.

### **Mankind receives the wrong feedback**

Cell phones, autos, foodstuffs, clothing, medicine, etc. become increasingly better and cheaper due to, among other things, the great demand, or respectively, production.

This instills a feeling of an unstoppable progress, which causes us to believe in mankind's unerring strength and power of innovation.

Infallibility!

Anything is possible!

But in doing so, we fail to recognize that we are careening towards catastrophe.

In the medium term, humanity faces its most difficult task: foregoing growth in every quantitative respect.

But growth is the elixir of life, of every nation, of industry; It is a drug, and above all, it is a given principle of nature (evolution).

To dispense with growth as a logical consequence is something that calls into question our systems and will shake them to their very foundations.

### **The Object**

Carlo Borner has used the UN data to "build" a space-filling sculpture made of polished stainless steel, which looks like a snapshot of a cyclone.

The object is meant to enable us to experience and perceive abstract data.

In this installation, a person is not to be portrayed as a number, but as a volume having a mass.

However, this is only halfway successful, since the portrayal in the sculpture actually only corresponds to a two-dimensional reproduction of the facts, namely:

$x/y$  = number of persons;  $z$  = time axis.

But physically, in reality a person is a three-dimensional being.

The object's lurching reflects the various geographical developments and plays upon the imprecision of the data.

### **Experiences**

It is horrifying that World War II with its 50 million dead scarcely shows up. World War I is more visible since it coincided with the Spanish Influenza, and the total world population was much lower.

It is also astonishing that the 30 Years' War (1618 to 1648) is not visible. After all, together with the plague, it decimated Germany's population to 50% of what it had been.

This example shows that locally limited catastrophes do not have an influence on the basic tendency of the development.

The UN data are estimates, projections, which have been put together by many experts. For the most part, censuses that may be taken seriously have only been in existence since 1950.

But, conversely, the curve also stands proportionately for the reduction of biodiversity, or directly proportional to land consumption, the destruction of the landscape.

No matter if we are dealing with population development, a typhoon, or even a nuclear mushroom, their curves are all surprisingly similar.