

Antoine Catala

*New Feelings*

September 28 - November 2, 2014

I don't feel the same anymore.

I feel new. I don't know how to describe the sensation.

Do you?

Can you feel how I feel?

Is really the sole purpose of emotions the survival of a gene pool? The ultimate bonding gel.

Through the screen, can you tell how I feel? My voice, do I sound nervous or happy?

Can one learn new feelings? A new type of anger, with a hint of pride, a new breed of painless joy.

Can you teach me how to feel, because I lost touch?

It's like something recently severed, and emotions are drifting inside of me.

When I was a little boy, I put myself in other's shoes. I would mimic people around me, copy the way they walked, the way they sat or spoke. It would open a window into their minds.

Empathic machines are coming, like children, learning.

Will I be able to outsource my feelings to emobots one day. I wouldn't have to deal with shitty emotions anymore. Let the emobots process my crappy moods and re-infuse my body with good vibes.

Fleeting.

If emotionomics is to become a reality, would I ever be able to purchase a meal with the sensation of freedom that permeates through me today? Pay with a confused transactional smile.

This is personal, and it's not.

It's all transparent. Let's put our feelings on the table.

*Antoine Catala (born in 1975, Toulouse France) lives and works in New York and has exhibited extensively both in the US and abroad. Recent solo exhibitions include: Heavy Words, curated by Florence Derieux at Peep-Hole, Milan (2014) and Image Families, curated by Linus Elmes at UKS, Oslo (2013). His work has also been included in Archeo, curated by Cecilia Alemani, High Line, New York, NY; Meanwhile...Suddenly and Then, 12 Biennale de Lyon, France curated by Gunnar B. Kvaran; ProBio, organized by Josh Kline, EXPO 1: New York, MoMA PSI, New York, NY; Empire State, curated by Alex Gartenfeld and Norman Rosenthal, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, Italy and Puddle, pothole, portal, co-curated by Ruba Katrib and Camille Henrot, Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY, opening in October.*