STEAMPUNK
A Calibration Of Longing

by Brian Catling

The highly detailed and visually engaging exhibition STEAMPUNK opened over the weekend at the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. This show draws on the extensive personal collection of Brian Catling, a British artist and writer, and gives a unique insight into the world of Steampunk, a genre that combines Victorian aesthetics with futuristic technology.

Steampunk is rooted in the aesthetics of Victorian technology. Yet it is not a nostalgic recreation of a vanished past; its devices are both imaginative and contemporary. The exhibition reveals the many possible responses to Steampunk’s characteristic preoccupation with the historical and the contemporary, the mechanical and the fanciful.

In imagining a Victorian future that has not come to pass, Steampunk artists cast an oblique light on the present. But their unrealised ‘futures’ are more celebration than commentary. Steampunk reveals in the insignificance and absurdity of mechanism and the unqualified pleasure of making.

Curator Art Donovan has brought together work by many of the leading practitioners of Steampunk art. It is fitting that it is shown at the Museum of the History of Science, which showscases relevant material from the past. The second room of the exhibition contains original objects of the kind that inspired Steampunk today.
DOCTOR GRYMM

Joey Marcacci (Dustbin Grymm) resides and paints robots and other machines in his workshop in the countryside of California. His works are based on the idea of reusing found objects, trash, and found objects to create his art. He is known for his unique and innovative approaches to art-making, using a variety of materials and techniques to create his robots and other mechanical assemblages. His work often incorporates elements of science fiction, science, and technology, and is characterized by its focus on the themes of innovation, invention, and the fusion of art and technology. Joey is also known for his collaborations with other artists and his involvement in various projects and exhibitions that focus on the intersection of art and technology.