

DAMN°

OPINIONS ON
CONTEMPORARY
CULTURE

As Time Goes By

ISSUE 79 / SUMMER 2021

Space Agency

ISSUE 79

As Time Goes By

Speed has become the measure of success and fast is never fast enough.

Now, urgent, instant.

To pause, delay, slow down, or god-forbid stop altogether is to miss an opportunity and assist the competition. Everyone is a competitor.

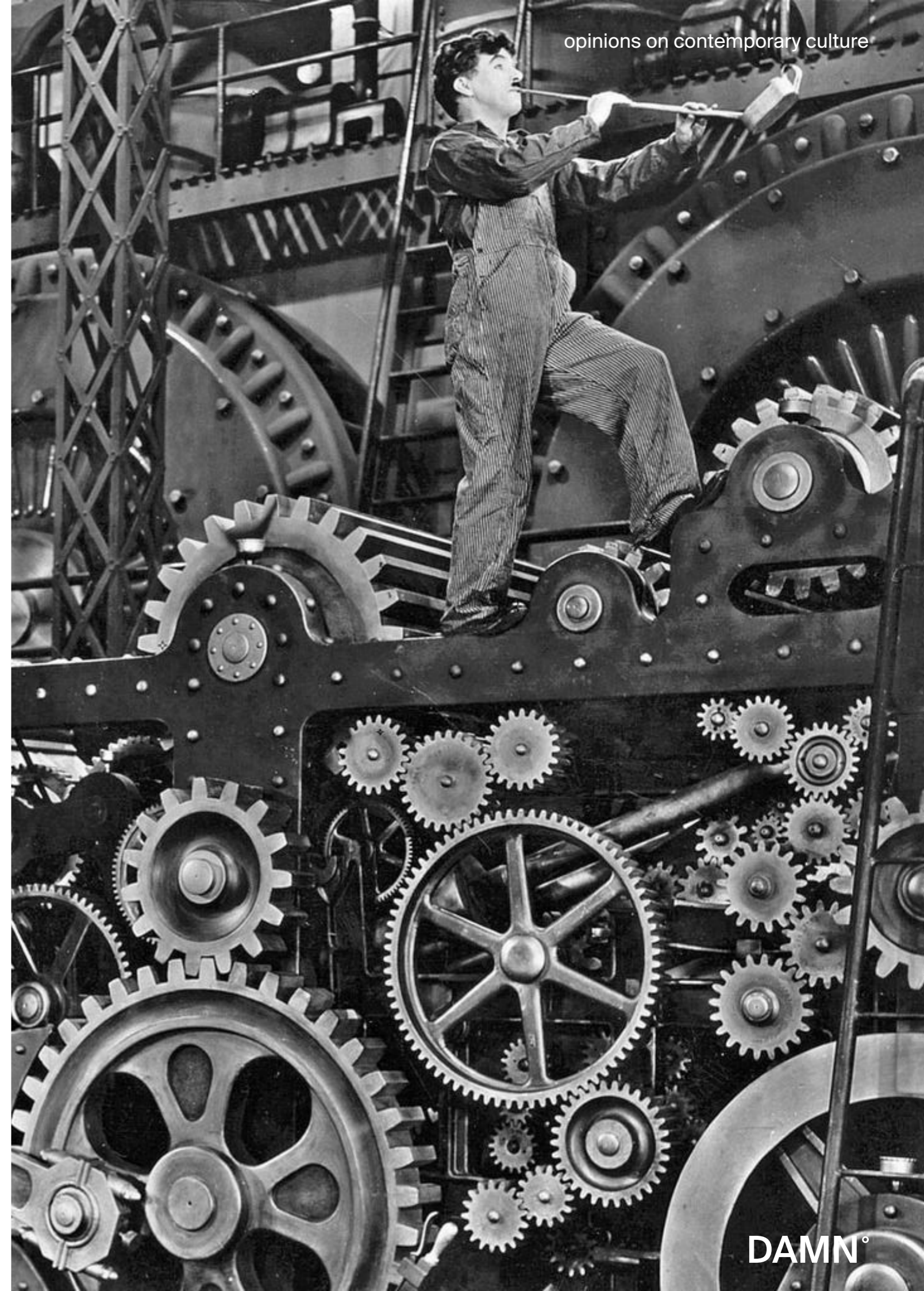
Fast news, fast networks, fast fashion. Being efficient, being productive no longer feels like a decision, but the only available option. Being competitive is essential to survival. Pace is a race and winning matters utmost.

In Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times* efficiency is measured by the maximisation of rapid production through the programming of human behaviour.

As mechanical gives way to digital, we struggle to keep up, always falling further and further behind.

Stress and anxiety mount as we become more enslaved to technology.

And it's not just in big business, in culture too.



Christopher Nolan



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Algorithms, fungible bits, virtual screening rooms.

Our communication, surveillance, public and private habitats – it's all run by algorithms that program other algorithms and so on.

But speed has its limits. The world at this speed is unsustainable.

Speed distorts out values – individualism, utility, efficiency, productivity, competition, consumption, and speed.

Other values that have been repressed need to be re-cultivated – sustainability, community, cooperation, generosity, patience, subtlety, deliberation, reflection, and slowness.

DAMN° 79 will delve into designers and artists working with, analysing, celebrating and critically denouncing this contemporary obsession with time.

From how **Felix Gonzales-Torres** was touched by how time can create the perfect moment of love to how new studio “*b-theory*” denies that time – at least how we tend to know it – even exists in the first place.

We look at how three big cultural names **Ryuchi Sakamoto**, **Hella Jongerius** and **Christopher Nolan** use their time – a peep into their daily routines. As well we see how time itself informs their latest works.



Felix Gonzales-Torres

Ryuchi Sakamoto



Hella Jongerius



Jeffrey Gibson



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We look at how ancient architecture is quite literally frozen in time and how some architecture survives time.

Artist **Jeffrey Gibson** tries to put time on pause to reflect back on all the assumptions that inform accepted narratives to think about alternative truths.

In fashion too we hear from **Maxine Dedat** and the race against time in the fast fashion industry.

And in art education we argue that it is time to talk about money, reality and survival if only to keep culture safe from clutches of neo-liberalism.

We visit the Venice Architecture Biennale, specifically to projects that play with time – past and future - The Lithuanian **Space Agency**, and the **Finnish Puutalo designs** most specifically.

We talk to Scottish textile artist **Erin McQuarrie** about how she uses tapestry as a “marker of time”, and to Japanese artist **Noboru Tsubaki** who rings an alarm on the “recent times” with a critical take on the *Anthropocene*.

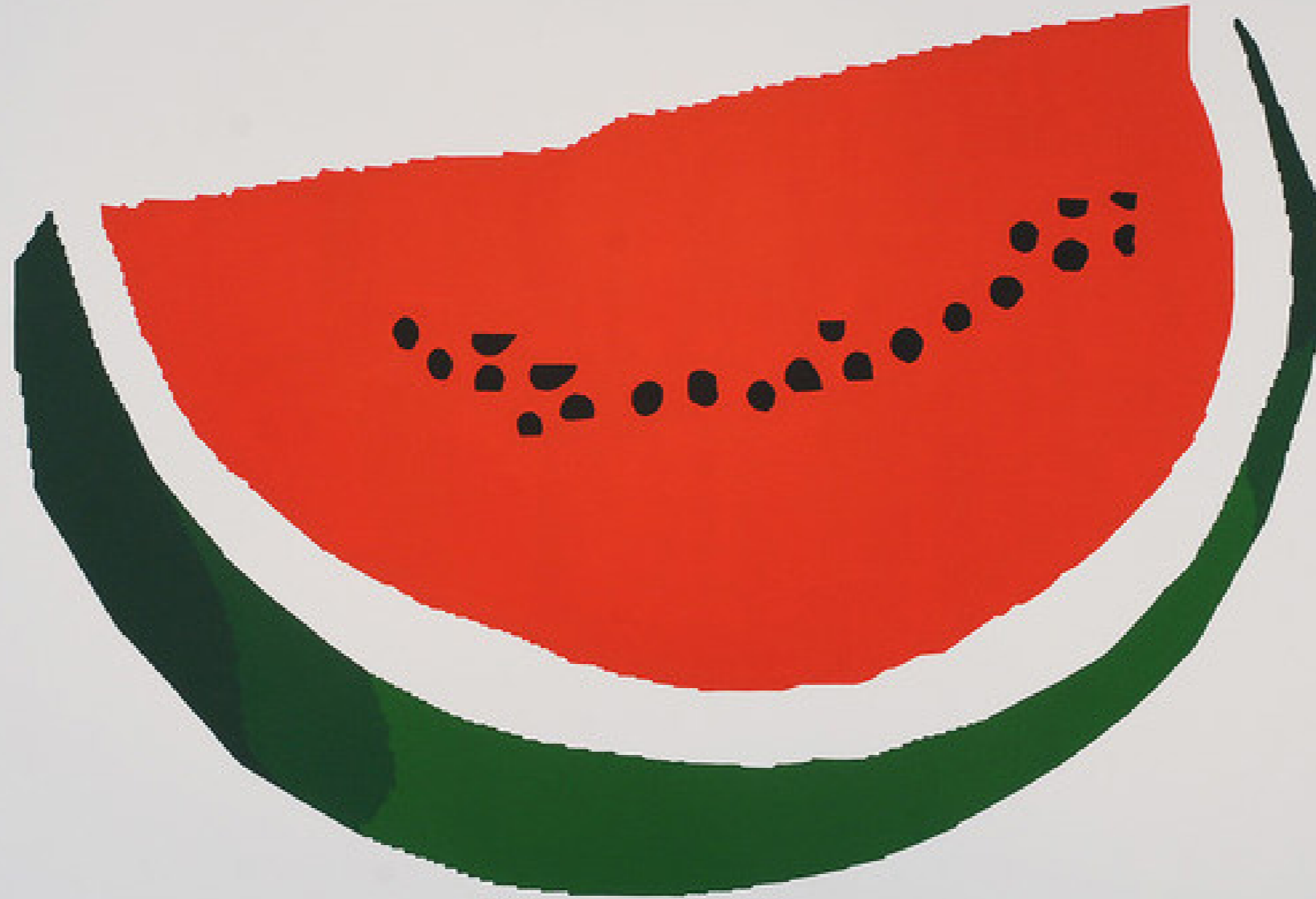
We also take a rugged plunge into the latest phenomenon in art – Non Fungible Tokens and will hear directly from **Hughey Crowley** and his own foray into this crazy market.



Maxine Dedat

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And we finish with a piece penned by Palestinian artist **Khaled Hourani** who created the Watermelon Flag to deft the ban on hanging the Palestinian colours throughout the occupied territories.



DAMN° PRINT

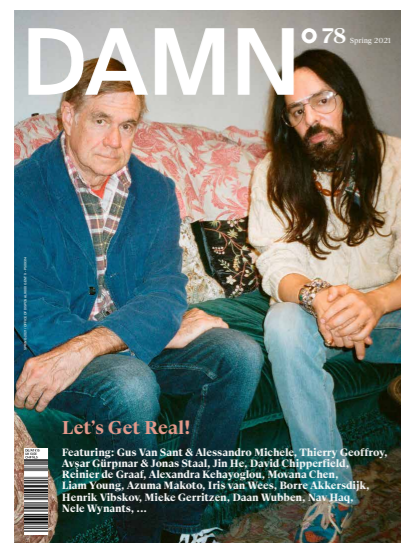
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Noboru Tsubaki



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Finnish Puutalo designs

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