

EVIDENCE FOR A WORLD THAT NEVER WAS

RPU63

Nine documents from a synthetic cultural archaeology.

RPU63 treats the archive not as a repository of what happened, but as an apparatus capable of making the unhappened appear historical.

THE PAST AS A GENERATIVE MEDIUM

RPU63 constructs visual and material evidence for a coherent historical world that never existed. Its posters, objects, bodies, diagrams and fragments are not reconstructions of 1963, but documents issued from an adjacent modernity.

The project is concerned with the unstable interval between memory and its object: the point at which an image ceases merely to represent history and begins to acquire the authority of historical evidence.

HAUNTOLOGY / LOST FUTURES

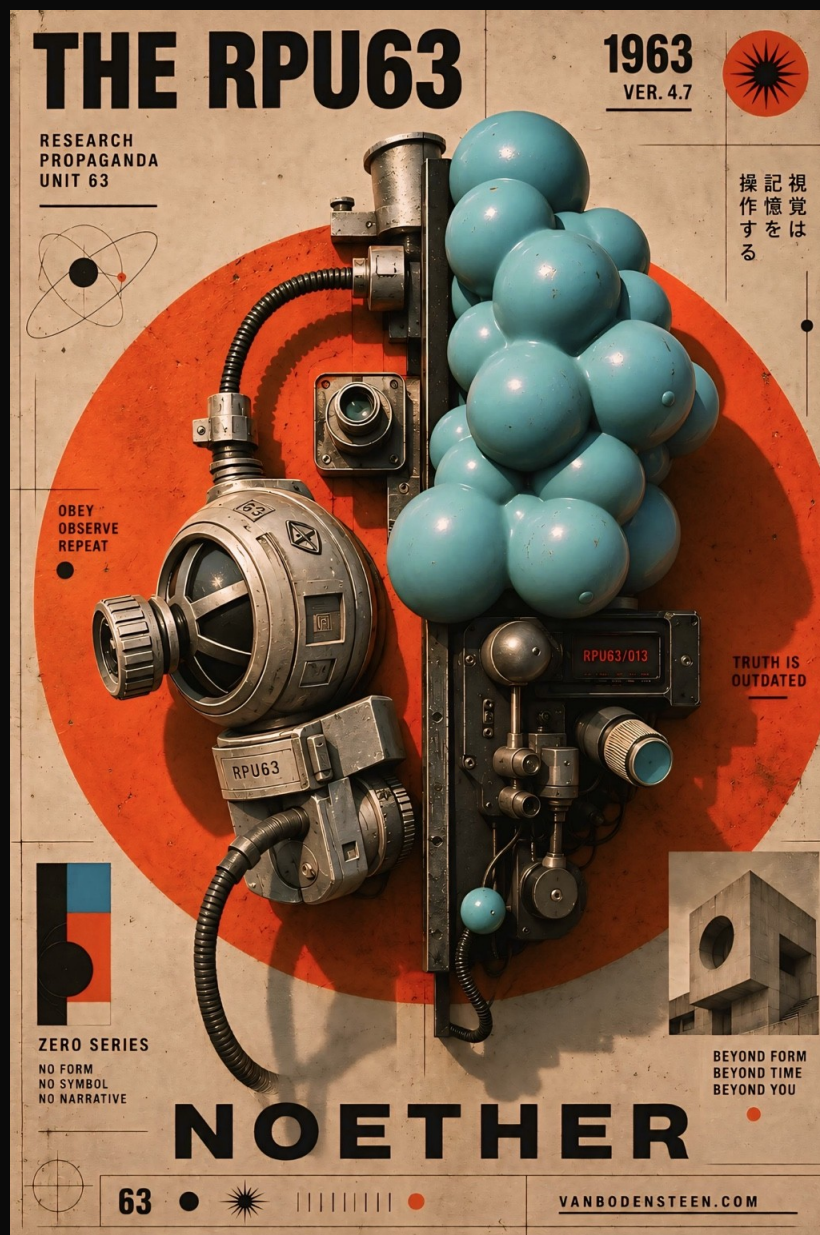
Mark Fisher's hauntology described a culture haunted by futures that had once seemed possible but failed to arrive. RPU63 approaches that condition from the opposite direction. It manufactures artifacts of futures that appear already to have happened elsewhere.

ARCHIVE NOTATION

RPU63 · CLASS · RECORD · ATTRIBUTED DATE

OBJ	object/apparatus	HUM	human material
LOC	site document	MON	monument
BIO	specimen	COM	language
UNC	unclassified		

Record numbers refer to the wider archive, not this nine-work sequence.



01

NOETHER

RPU63 · OBJ · 0417 · 1963

*An institution appears before its history
can be verified.*

Research apparatus, propaganda surface
and administrative diagram converge in a
document that behaves as if its institutional
context were self-evident. The archive
supplies procedures, symbols and
equipment, but no external record of the
organisation that produced them.

ORIGIN: unresolved / FILE STATUS: partial



02

SPECIMEN FOR AN UNRECORDED HUMAN

RPU63 · HUM · 0281 · 1963

*The human survives as a model while
its definition disappears.*

The object carries the authority of the educational model, medical prototype and anthropological specimen. Yet the archive withholds the institution that classified it, the body it describes and the social ideal it may once have embodied.

CLASSIFICATION: provisional / RELATED RECORDS: incomplete



03

PORTRAIT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FUNCTIONARY

A social role is legible; the subject is not.

The suit establishes bureaucracy, status and institutional belonging. The head converts perception into apparatus. RPU63 leaves unresolved whether this is portraiture, occupational equipment, allegory or the image of a category of person for which no historical vocabulary survives.

IDENTITY: unverified / INSTITUTION: not recovered



04

GRÜSSE AUS KARL-MARX-STADT, 1963

RPU63 · LOC · 1103 · 1963

A real place contains an impossible object.

Historical geography anchors the fiction. The city is recognisable; the technological event is not. By inserting the impossible into an otherwise plausible documentary surface, the work shifts RPU63 from retro-futurist fantasy toward counterfactual history.

LOCATION: Karl-Marx-Stadt / EVENT: unverified



05

MONUMENT TO AN UNRECORDED EVENT

RPU63 · MON · 0529 · 1963

*Commemoration persists after its
occasion has vanished.*

The form possesses the scale and solemnity of public memory without identifying what is being remembered. No surviving document establishes whether it marks a victory, catastrophe, discovery, person or event. The monument outlives its referent.

DEDICATION: absent / LOCATION: unresolved



06

THREE SPECIMENS FROM AN UNKNOWN CLASSIFICATION

*Taxonomy remains visible after
knowledge has become inaccessible.*

The three forms are presented as related objects, yet the principle of relation is absent. Scientific display becomes an archaeology of classification itself: evidence that a system of knowledge once existed without preserving the terms by which it organised the world.

CATEGORY: unresolved / RELATION: presumed



07

INSTRUMENT FOR A CEREMONY NO LONGER REMEMBERED

The object survives. The occasion does not.

Horns, resonant membranes and translucent structural forms imply projection, reception or conversion of sound. Engraved signs suggest differentiated functions. Whether scientific, civic or ceremonial, the event for which the instrument was required has disappeared from the record.

FUNCTION: disputed / OPERATOR: unknown



08

GO TO THE MIRROR, BOY

RPU63 · COM · 0316 · 1963

*An instruction survives the authority
that issued it.*

The phrase has the economy of a command, therapeutic protocol, initiation rite or disciplinary slogan. Its addressee is absent; so is the institution behind it. Language becomes an archaeological trace of an unknown social order.

ADDRESSEE: unidentified / SOURCE CONTEXT: missing



09

UNTITLED, LOCATION UNKNOWN

RPU63 · UNC · 1248 · 1963?

*Organic form and industrial landscape
become archaeologically
indistinguishable.*

Scale is uncertain. The forms could be manufactured objects, biological structures, architectural remnants or organisms. The archive closes without resolving whether this world ended, evolved elsewhere, or was never historical in the first place.

LOCATION: unresolved / SCALE: indeterminate / DATE: uncertain

THE CONVENTIONAL DIRECTION

EVENT -> DOCUMENT -> ARCHIVE -> HISTORY

THE RPU63 REVERSAL

IMAGE -> ARCHIVE -> IMPLIED EVENT

The document does not authenticate the event. The accumulation of documents makes the event retrospectively imaginable.

The classification system itself becomes an artifact: an apparatus for imposing order on a history without an original.

1963 IS NOT A YEAR. IT IS A PLACE.

RPU63 constructs evidence for a historical world that never existed.

The archive is not documentation of the fiction.

THE ARCHIVE IS THE FICTION.

*Perhaps hauntology need not concern only
the ghosts of futures that failed to arrive.*

*RPU63 asks whether we can also be
haunted by pasts that never happened.*

CURATORIAL DIALOGUE / RESEARCH

studio@rpu63.com

[instagram.com/van_bodensteen](https://www.instagram.com/van_bodensteen)