

**BANK  
EXCERPT FROM:  
IF HOPE WERE A  
TIME MACHINE  
(1999)**

If hope  
was a  
Time Machine

**Text produced for:  
If Hope Was a Time Machine...  
Solo BANK show, Magazin 4,  
Bregenz, Austria. (July/Aug 1999)**



**'If hope was a time machine'**

Bank

17 July - 15 August 1999

Magazin 4, Bregenz



## B. FUTURE LIFE

One of the BANK group said: "We must try and create the realism of the future, before that future happens... to make sure it represents the correct future... this is necessarily where all our hopes and dreams exist." We felt if we could paint some small area of this future - a future that was not soaked with ideology, an unexceptional corner of the world that is to come - then, maybe, it would help to shape that future.

And this is what we (BANK) believe. We do not wish to reintroduce any metanarratives and we are not interested in the idea of representation as it is taught in cultural studies courses - we (BANK) are interested in producing dead images of the future, for the future. Future Life, 1999, is a still-life of the future, for that future.



### C. SPACESHIP CLEANER

Spaceship cleaner/tribute to Duane Hanson; a sculpture which plays off Philip K. Dick's vision of a dirty, banal, dystopian future (as opposed to the usual fifties and sixties s/f projections of shiny utopias) against the Lukácsian notion of 'socialist realism' whereby "Any accurate account of reality is a contribution - whatever the author's subjective intention - to the Marxist critique of capitalism, and is a blow in the cause of socialism". The viewer is thus confronted with a representation of a cleaner from the future, in the style of Duane Hanson, forcing them to decide whether the transposition of socialist realism upon the future represents a reactionary 'right wing' view, in terms of its dystopian pessimism; whether it is an attempt to represent a socialist realist representation of a cleaner in an art exhibition in the future; or whether it could be seen as a 'warning' or 'call to arms': forcing them because, if socialist realism (or any sort of realism) can only represent the present (and represent this present "truthfully"), is it not condemned to a subservient relationship vis-a-vis the oppressive structures it seeks to represent "truthfully"? And if this representation requires interpretation, which suggests the viewer must have a position, does this not point to the impossibility of representing any "truth" free of ideology?; or perhaps, to the impossibility of representing anything because of the ideology that surrounds and contains us all; because maybe we need a new sort of brain?





**D. EXPLANATION: *If hope was a cockroach***

I dreamt it had all changed, I dreamt I had escaped from here. I woke up and it was all strange. There were two suns hanging in the air above me. The sky was blue and clear and the clouds were powdery white. The air was sweet and as I looked down there was soil - real soil. I fell to my knees and pushed my fingers into the soil - it *was* real soil. I could feel it beneath my finger-nails. I felt tears hot on my cheeks and they rolled down my cheeks, over my chin and fell onto the soil. And then I felt something on my fingers - something touching my fingers - I looked down - *a real cockroach*. It scuttled over my fingers, alive and vital. I looked up and screamed with joy, I was crying. Hope! Above me birds wheeled in the sky. I was free. "Yes, yes, yes..." I murmured. I looked down at the soil and the grass and the trees and screamed: "Yes, yes, yes!"