

# PLANET SPACE

## ROVER

REACTIVE ROBOTIC  
SCULPTURE

## ORGAMAT

SOUND ROBOTIC  
SCULPTURE

## DRONE # 6

SURVEILLANCE ROBOTIC  
SCULPTURE

## SOLAR KINETIC

## OBJECT # 28

SOLAR-POWERED  
KINETIC ROBOT

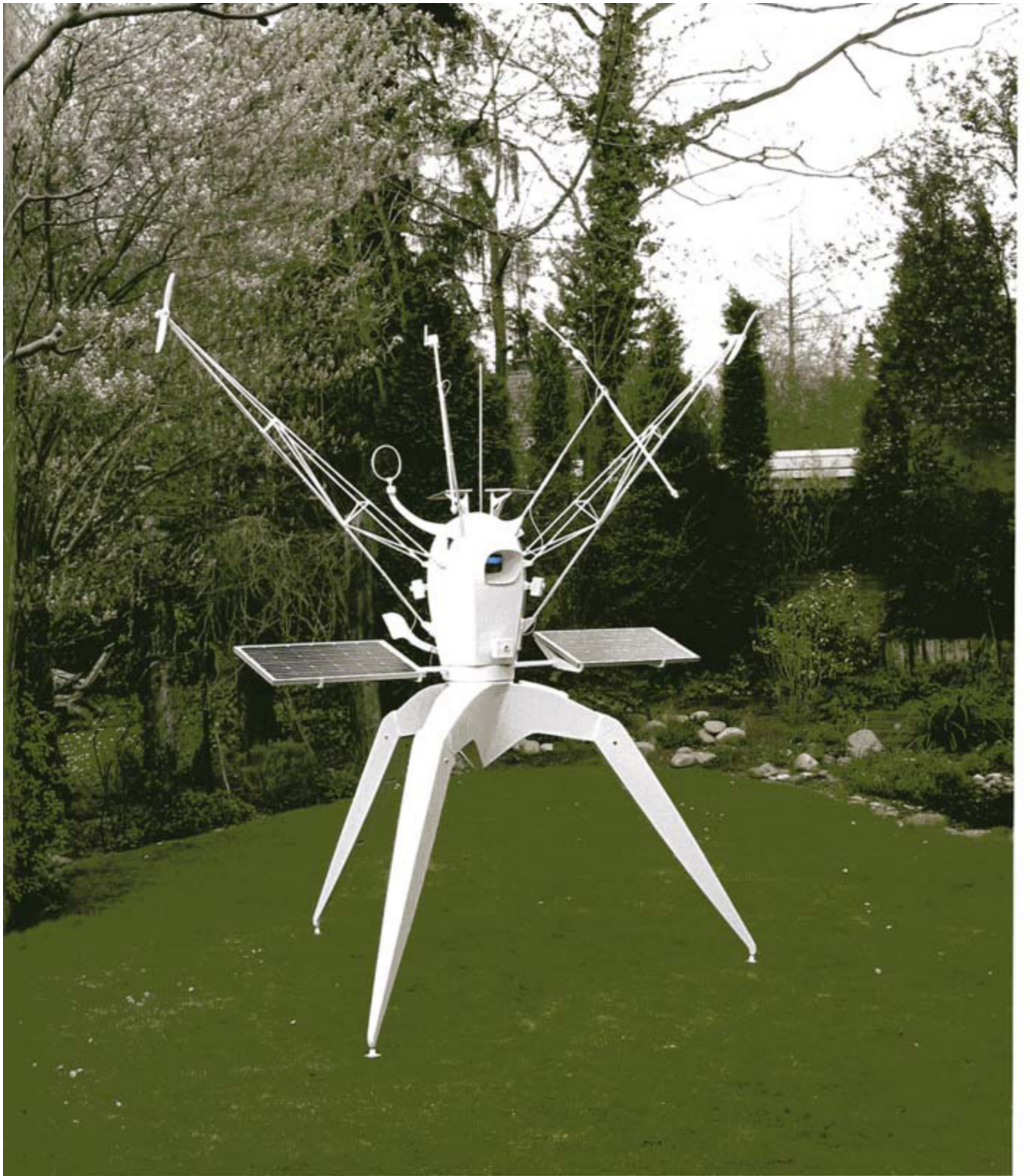
# BJÖRN SCHÜLKE

Björn Schülke creates interactive sculptures in which media art mixes with kinetic in a unique, tri-dimensional language. Born out of a world of spaceships, 1960s science fiction and unusual scientific instruments, his sculptures appear both fragile and elegant, and manage, beyond their inherent playfulness, to question the way we interact with modern technologies – more specifically with robotics, interactive technologies and surveillance.

With his *Drone* series, Schülke considers the apprehension and paranoia that beset us in our dealings with surveillance devices. His *Drone 6* hangs from the ceiling, presenting itself as a playful, futuristic and beautifully executed robot. Integrated in the device is a LCD monitor displaying what the drone sees, and a little propeller mounted on an extended arm, which allows the drone to rotate as it scans the room. The drone also incorporates two cameras and a heat sensor to enable it to track a human presence. The viewer's discomfiture under this constant observation deepens the meaning of the piece. Another example of what Schülke calls an 'autonomous observation device' is his *Planet Space Rover*, a large, kinetic robot fitted with similar equipment, which responds by movements to a human presence. The robot also integrates a long-wave scanner to extend its range of observation.

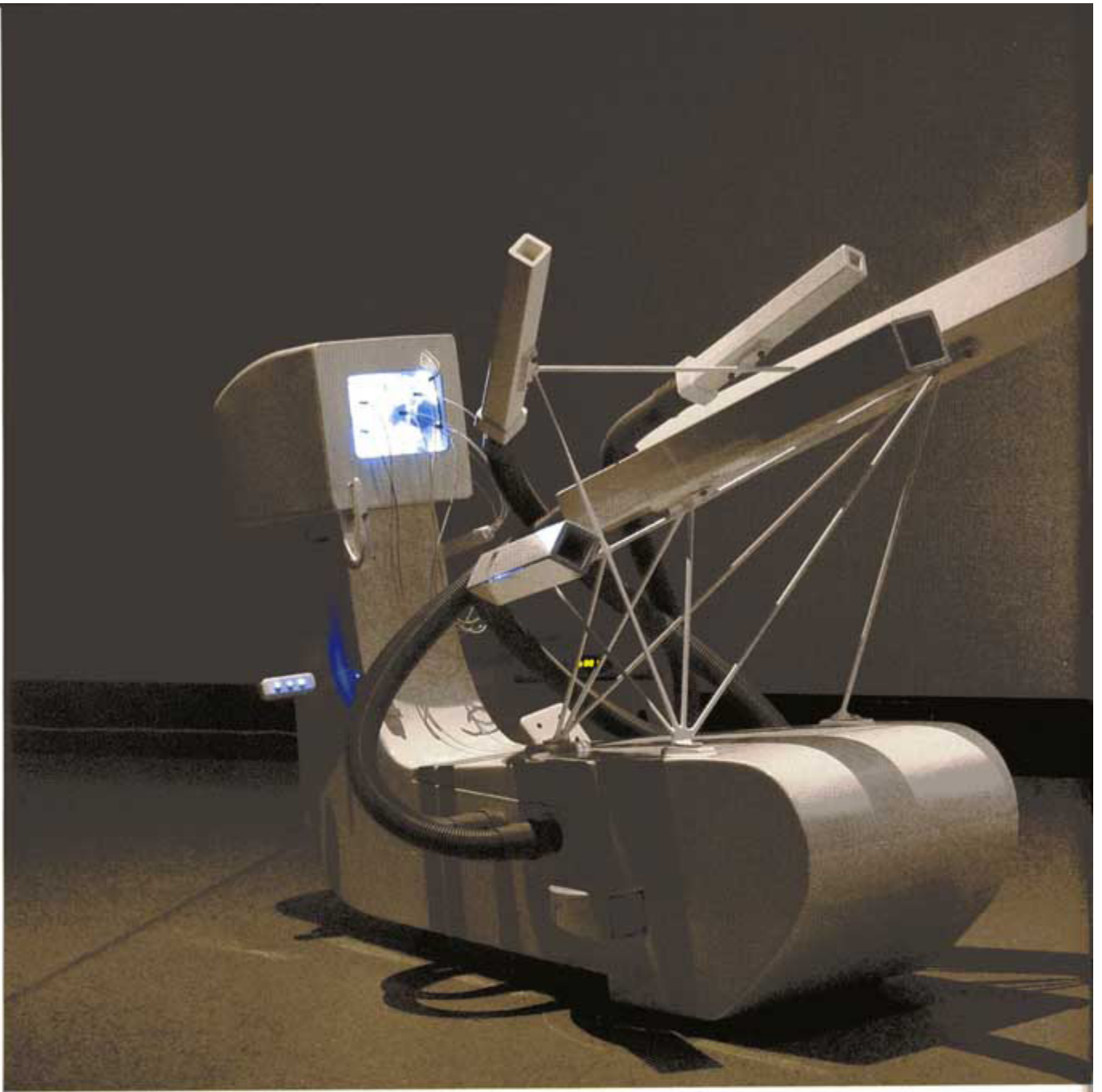
*Orgamat*, an audio-video sculpture, transforms insipid daily TV shows into the warm and melodious sounds of five organ pipes. There, five sensors stuck on to an integrated TV screen detect the light intensity in the pictures, permitting control of the pipes. But beyond the darker readings of Schülke's

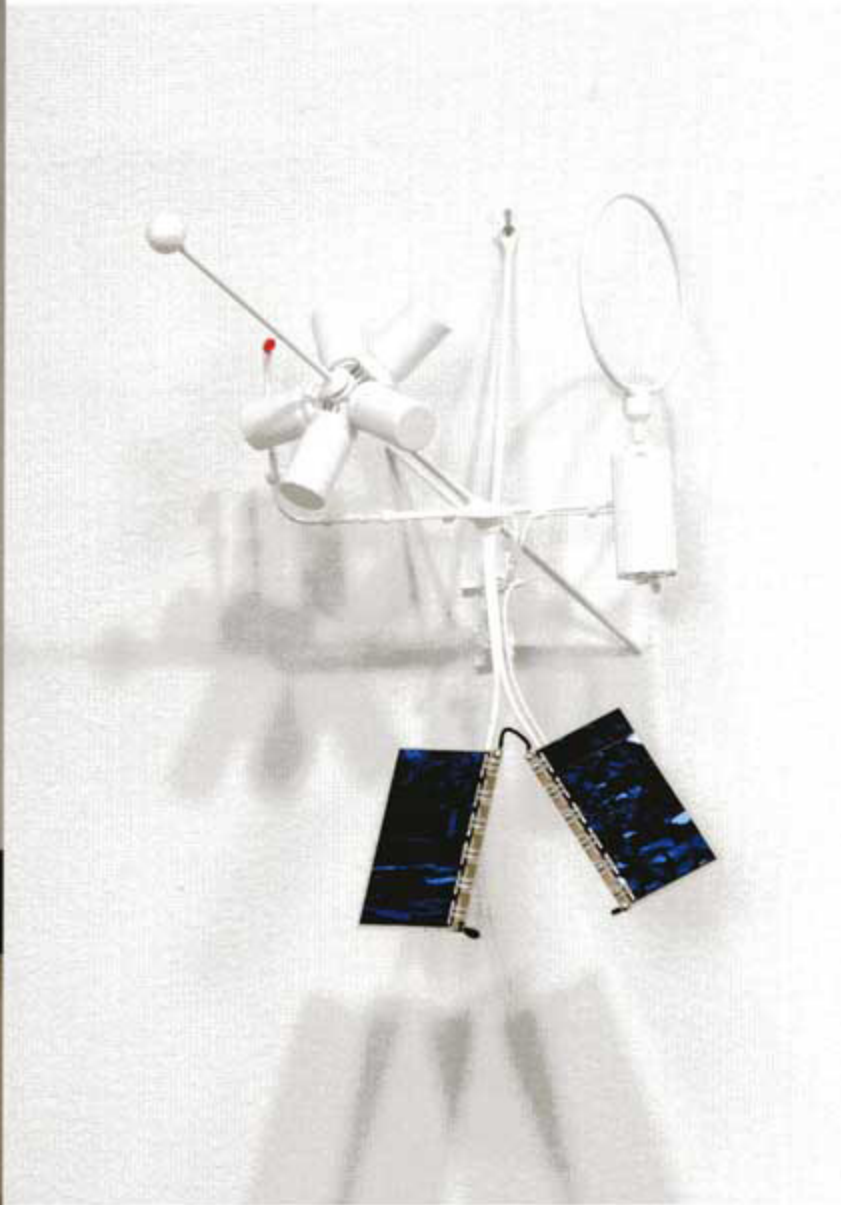
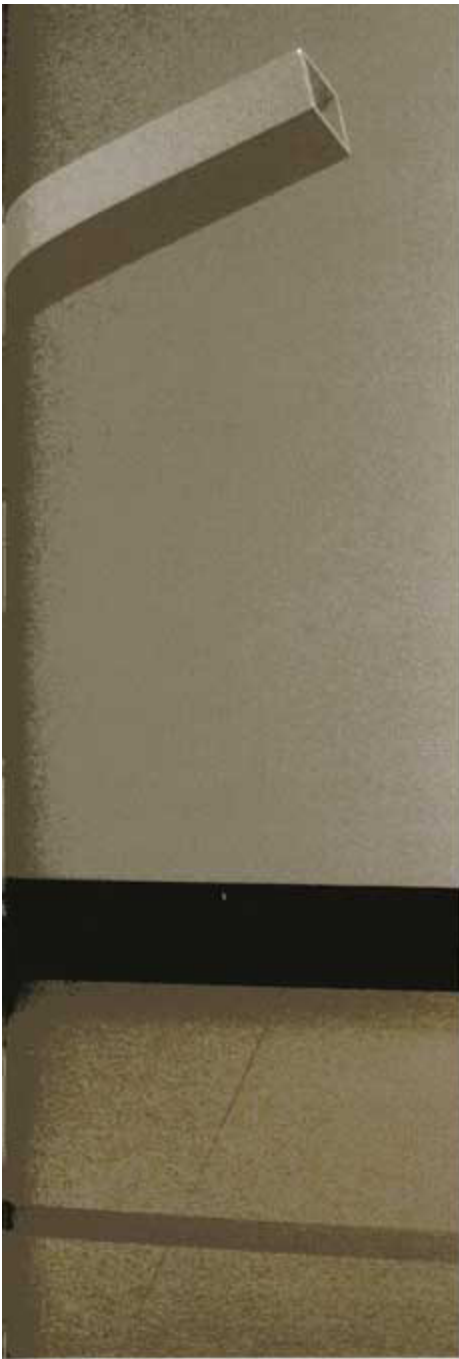
work remains a distinct feeling that the artist loves the technology, its forms and possibilities, an attitude that finds expression in works such as his solar kinetic objects, smaller kinetic devices that are self-powered by means of embedded solar cells.



**Planet Space Rover**  
2004

Fibreglass, wood, metal, motors, sensors,  
cameras and solar cells  
292 x 150 x 150 cm (115 x 59 x 59 in.)





[opposite top]

**Orgamat**

2005

Wood, metal, electronics, television,  
fan, paint

119 x 170 x 89 cm (47 x 67 x 35 in.)

[opposite bottom]

**Drone #6**

2006

Fibreglass, plywood, aluminium, colour  
monitor, two cameras, motors, infrared  
sensor, halogen light

64 x 71 x 71 cm (25 x 28 x 28 in.)

[above]

**Solar Kinetic Object #28**

2006

Solar cells, motor, brass wire, circuits,  
automotive paint

15 x 20 x 14 cm (6 x 8 x 5 in.)