

# A Cyborg: Between a Human and a Posthuman?

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## Abstract

**Who is a posthuman? is a double-dubious question, which despite several decades of an intense debate still remains difficult to answer. It introduces an inner tension by provoking us to think whether we deal with an enhanced human, a newer step of evolution or a transformation into not-humans. It also inevitably entails a question about a body that seems human's inherent feature. In the case of posthumans, however, a body becomes an enigmatic condition. It is especially visible in the performances of posthuman artists' who by subjecting their own bodies to modifications, enhancement and technological transformation challenge the well-established concepts and beliefs concerning the human body.**

**In our presentation, we analyze the notions of a posthuman in body art by confronting them with bioethical concepts of e.g. Harris, Fukuyama, Bostrom and Savulescu.**

**First, we refer to the works of Stelarc, Orlan (body art). Then by discussing the recent works of Neil Harbisson and Moon Ribas (cyborg artists), who deliberately call themselves cyborgs, we explore the idea of active posthumans.**

**Secondly, we analyze the concept of a cyborg that intercrosses the ideas of a human and of (bio)technological modifications. We discuss how by undertaking the status of senses and specific cyborg experience, it challenges our understanding of a human body, e. g. a seismic sensor sewed under the skin being either a tool or a non-organic body part.**

**Finally, we suggest that the concept of a cyborg may bring us closer to the notions of a human and a posthuman.**

### **Keywords**

Posthuman, Human enhancement, Cyborg, Body, Body art, Bioethics.