

The Thinker

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Opening:

Friday 8 November 7 pm

8 November – 30 November

Centralbanken

Brugata 12, 0186, Oslo, Norway

Someone is trapped in a painting. It's obvious that decoration and narrative are mutually compatible—that's most of the history of art. So where's all this adolescent-looking angst coming from? Or why won't the figures disappear already? This metal web is trying to be a decorative motif, trying to take over, bury the original referents. But to the cartoon character in the middle, the jagged arabesque is an advanced technology gone completely haywire. On the other hand, it's sort of up to anyone if there's a character at all. There are several theories as to who is depicted in Rodin's *The Thinker*—Dante? The artist himself? Adam? Happily, enough copies exist around the world to accommodate each popular theory, and more. Looking around online I've come across mention of six different comic book identities who go by the name The Thinker, and they are either cyborgs or, in one case, a robotics expert who can project his mind onto a robotic servant. Call me old fashioned, but in my day thinking was something you did sitting on a rock with your head in your hands!