

Flower power: anti-Vietnam War protesters unsettle military police guarding the Pentagon during a peace march, Arlington, Virginia, October 1967

Take a trip back in time

A V&A EXHIBITION CELEBRATES THE SIXTIES' YOUTH REVOLUTION



Depending on who's telling you, this year punk was either given due reverence for the 40th anniversary of its spittle-flecked birth, or turned into an Instagrammable tourist trail with accompanying hashtags and £35 souvenir coffee-table book. So, with four brands name-checked, the V&A's big autumn/winter show on late-Sixties revolution will have some aging hippies muttering "sell out", but few big exhibitions now open without corporate cash.

The fourth of the show's six sections is on the consumerism boon that took place along with all the turning on, tuning in, dropping out and wising up. Quite right — the Sixties doesn't make sense unless you consider all its yin-and-yang upheavals: Pan Am hostesses and protest movements; free festivals and credit cards; the dawn of computing on the US West Coast and the seismic fashion shift in Swinging London.

All the above feature in the other five sections, as do music, counterculture, design, art, drugs, photography and films. The first room is a recreation of Carnaby Street (Esquire can see the real thing from its front window and prefers the old look, tbh), then walk on to listen to pirate radio, go into the underground UFO club, read George Harrison's diary, watch Woodstock and be there at the start of the green movement. It's evocative, inspiring stuff. Selling out, man, is what tends to happen with V&A exhibitions, so you may want to book.

You Say You Want a Revolution: Records and Rebels 1966-70 is at the V&A in London from 10 September-26 February 2017

Unmasking the cyber men

A NEW BOOK EXPLORES THE COLOSSAL IMPACT OF CYBERNETICS ON HUMANITY



A year into World War II, British defences could only shoot down one per cent of German bombers over London. By August 1944, anti-aircraft shells with variable time fuses, guided by newly developed microwave radar, were hitting two-thirds of V1 flying bombs. Human error, said the head of Anti-Aircraft Command, was being eliminated from warfare and "in the future, the machines would fight it out". In *Rise of the Machines*, Thomas Rid, a professor of

security studies at King's College London, shows that work on that radar system led to the birth of cybernetics, the study and creation of control systems in man, machine and both together. It's a powerful concept that has radically altered not just modern warfare, but counterculture, faith, video games, the internet, hacking, anarcho-resistance, robots and AI — plus the small matter of mankind's place as the machines become more intelligent. With

a reporter's investigative nose for a story, Rid meets Chinese intelligence officers in Beijing and former hippies still enjoying the sun in San Francisco. He's spent years interviewing dozens of people, obtaining trust over dinners and drinks and filing freedom of information requests in multiple countries. He is the ideal guide to the recent past shaping our future.

Rise of the Machines (Scribe) is out on 25 August