

YOUR MAPLET

You are in the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw at the exhibition entitled “The Penumbral Age. Art in the Time of Planetary Change”. The exhibition consists of artistic works created over the last fifty years, which reflect changes taking place all over the globe.

Global warming is a topic that affects everyone, including those involved in the arts. We turn to artistic works for answers to the question of what we can do for the future. Can irreversible phenomena be controlled? How to show solidarity and empathy for one another? How to face a crisis together?

The map was created to make it easier for you to move around the exhibition space. It will help you interpret the meanings of the artistic works. The map doesn't describe all the works. Instead, it offers possible questions that can encourage individual reception of the works of art.

The works aren't arranged according to the date of their creation. In the marked areas, you will find works that cover a similar topic. We provide the length of the videos so that it will be easier for you to plan the viewing and visiting time.

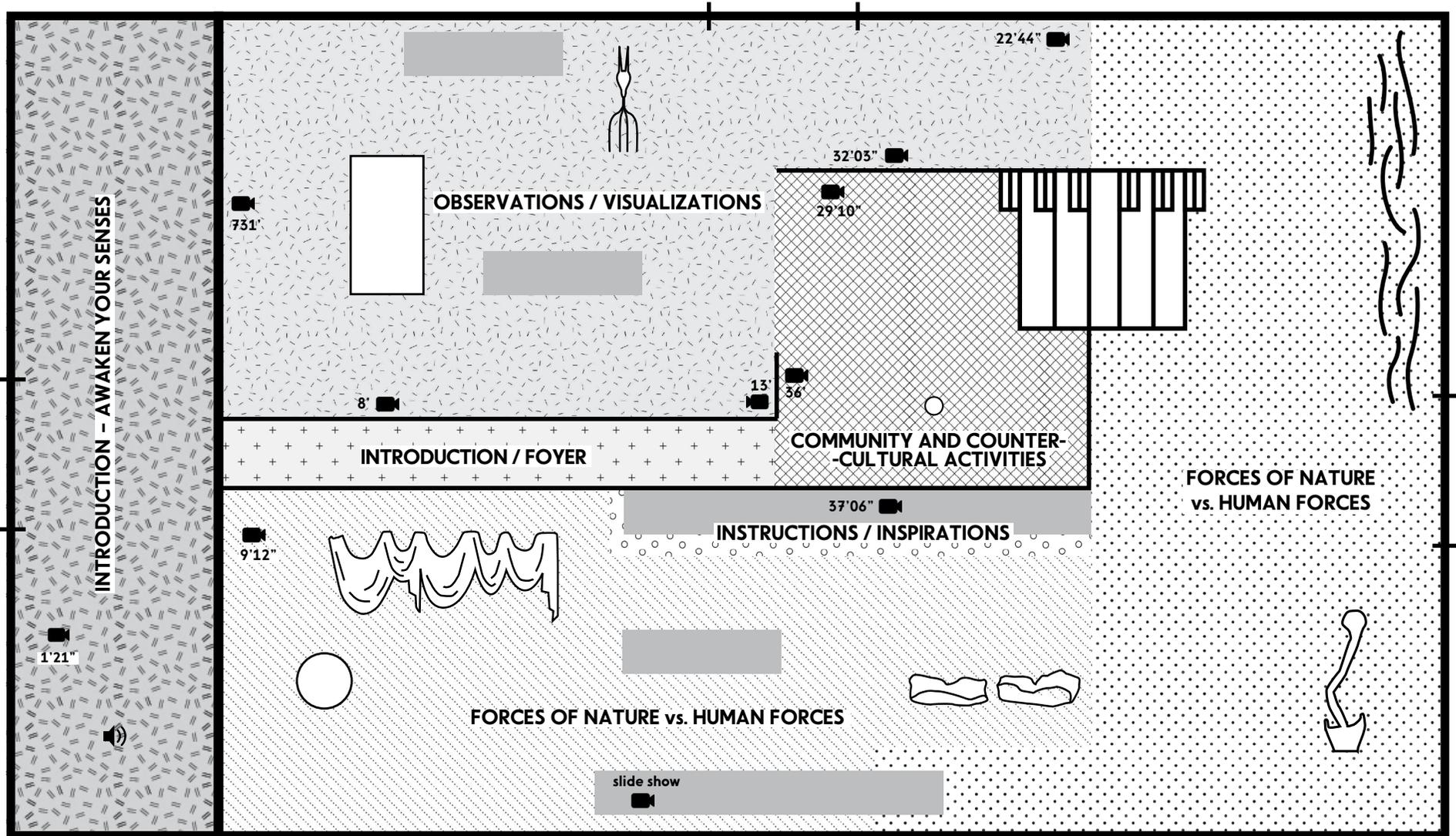
Let's see the exhibition!

MUZEUM
museum
of modern art
in warsaw



THE EXHIBITION PLAN*, THE LAYOUT OF THEMATIC SECTIONS AND SPATIAL OBJECTS

platforms
in front of
the museum



LEGEND:

video works

spatial works
(black outline)

2D works

questions

display cases

audio works

** the plan is tentative - the works are marked symbolically, their actual sizes and distances may slightly differ

INTRODUCTION - AWAKEN YOUR SENSES

Part of the works can be found outside the exhibition hall. Two of them are outside the Museum on the Vistula; others can be found in the foyer. Usually, this is where you start exploring. This time, instead of looking around - listen. Close your eyes and discover the sounds that introduce you to the exhibition. This is the first cue to open all your senses to experiencing the world. It's also an exercise in mindfulness: let it guide you while you're exploring the exhibition.

On the platforms outside the museum building, you will find *Tarawa Night Song* by Anja Kanngieser, an artist working with sound who recorded a song performed by the inhabitants of the islands of the Republic of Kiribati, already suffering from flooding caused by the rising ocean levels.



❓ What do your surroundings sound like? Can the changes be heard?

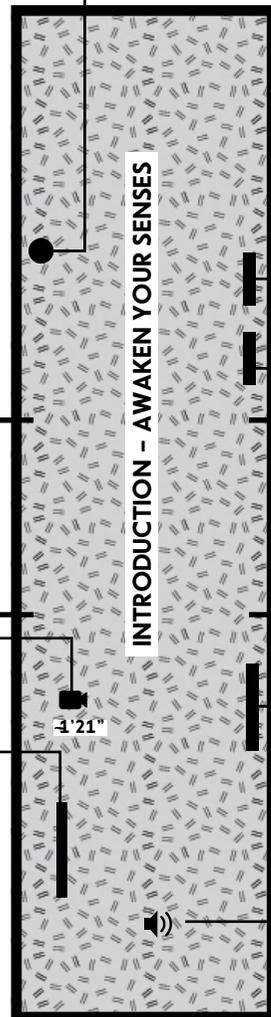
- What beautiful places have you visited? What places and sounds do you remember from your childhood? Do they still exist? Have they changed?
- Who bears the consequences of the human-made climate changes?
- Do you know the terms "climate debt / climate justice"? What do they refer to?

Vigil II, Akademia Ruchu

Akira Tsuboi, paintings depicting the consequences of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster.

- Do people try to predict the consequences of their inventions?
- What alerts us to threats?
- Who typically suffers from the failures of human inventions?
- How can you express your anger and defiance?

Columbarium,
Czekalska + Golec



Exclamation Mark,
Rudolf Sikora

In both of these works, the artists adopt a cosmic perspective that, until recently, wasn't available to humans (the first photos from space were taken in the 1940s). Today, thanks to new technologies, we can see different images of the Earth.

- How do you view the Earth? What do you see every day?
- When you look at the Earth from a cosmic distance, how does such change of perspective alter the way you think about it?

Isamu Noguchi's photo presents a mock-up of *Memorial to Men*, a land art project that was supposed to be seen from Mars when people would no longer exist on Earth.

❓ What scene does this work portray? What do you associate it with?

- Do you think nature may serve as decoration?
- How do humans combine admiration for the beauty of nature with its exploitation?

La noble pastorale,
Suzanne Husky

❓ What sounds do you recognize in the recording?

- What place do you associate it with?
- What do you think -- has the recording been edited or is it an actual footage?
- What does perfect nature sound like?

Envoirements,
Irv Teibel



Among the greenery at the back of the museum is Krzysztof Maniak's *Sculpture for Insects*, the name of which indicates its purpose. The artist intended for it to be populated with and used by various insects. Careful! There may be hornets!



❓

- How often do you notice insects?
- How are pollinators of use to people? Any examples?
- To what extent do people depend on nature?
- Do people you know consider themselves integrated with nature or on the fringes of it?
- What can influence people's attitude towards nature?

INTRODUCTION / FOYER

In the long, narrow corridor, you will find two works. How do you feel when the decision as to where to go is out of your hands, or when you don't know what is around?

COMMUNITY AND COUNTER-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

This exhibition space offers documentation of the 1960s activities and references to them. Half a century ago, the interest in the environment spiked. People began to notice that their actions had a devastating effect on nature. It was also when artists turned to conceptual and process-based art. All over the world, they devoted themselves to community practices that bring us closer to nature. Take a look at them.



- What is it that you can call "corridors" through which you move every day?
- Who charts the paths you follow? Who charts the paths for other beings?
- How often do you travel on highways or expressways? What's the impact of such roads on the environment and the animals?
- How do speed and means of transport affect your awareness while traveling? Think about the various means of communication and roads.
- Who/What, apart from animals, migrates? What drives them to move?

Wolf Corridor & Stamp Forest, Kasper Bosmans. "Art is a decoration that makes you smarter," says the artist. His fresco displays motifs related to the influence of urban sprawl and road construction on animal migration.

Penumbral cinema: Film screenings take place in the central part of the exhibition, in the auditorium:

every Tuesday at 6:00 pm: Maria Waško, *To Plant a Tree Together*, 1995, 58'00"

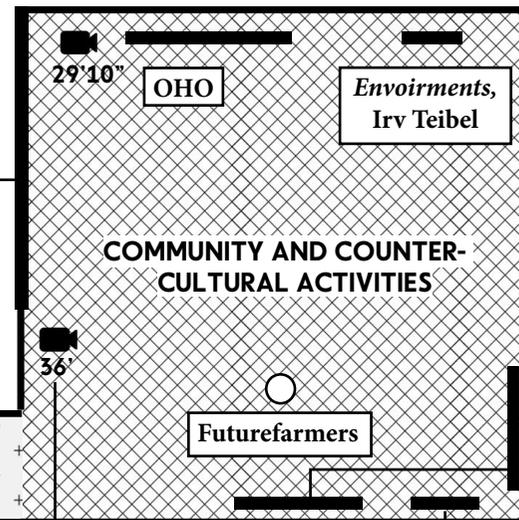
every Wednesday at 18:30: Alice Creischer, *In the Stomach of Predators*, 2012/13, 22'23"

každy czwartek, godz. 18:30: Nicolas Mangan, *Nauru, notatki ze świata kredy*, 2010, 11'54"

every Thursday at 6:30 pm: Karrabing Film Collective, *The Mermaids, or Aiden in Wonderland*, 2018, 26'29"



- What are the advantages of living in a community?
- Is the city space conducive to community activities? Why?
- What connects people in your surrounding?
- What can influence the success of community activities?



- How can you sense nature and make contact with it?
- Try to imagine what the place where you live looked like 100, 1 000, and 10 000 years ago.

Anna & Lawrence Halprin

INTRODUCTION / FOYER

10 trashy ideas about the environment, Guerilla Girls. Read these sentences from 1994. Are they still valid?

Whispering Pines 10, Shana Moulton & Nick Hallet, the video opera that plays in the background recounts the dilemmas of Cynthia. The protagonist, realizing the scale of the ecological disasters on Earth, prepares for an internal transformation and is ready to take more decisive steps.

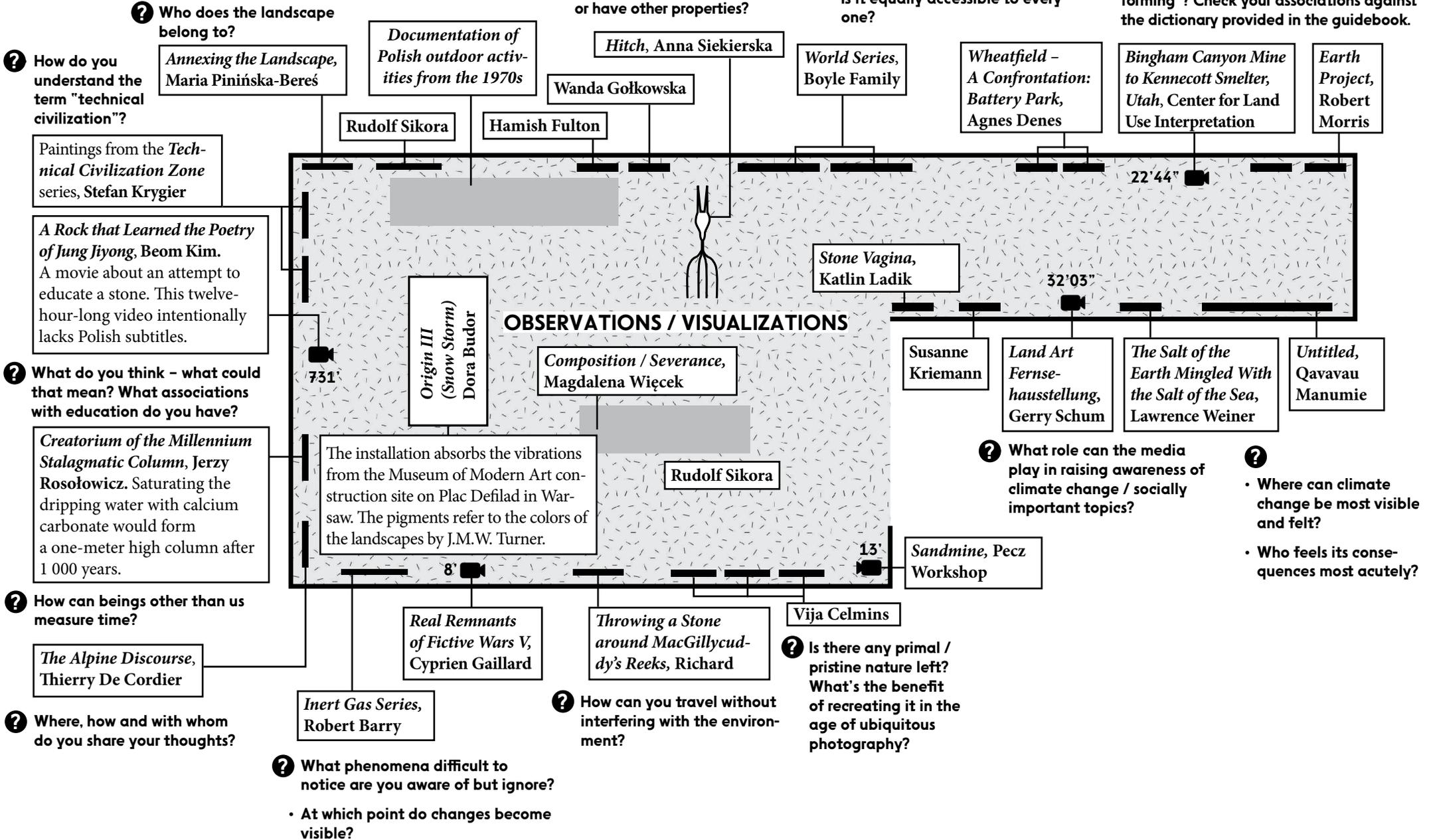
Sitting Still I, Bonnie Ora Sherk



- What motivates you to act?
- After watching the movie, think about what your tree is.
- What are the consequences of extreme individualism, independence, and social isolation?

OBSERVATIONS / VISUALIZATIONS

This part of the exhibition centers around artistic observations and visualizations that have often been the result of longer processes. Imagine a non-human timescale and keep it in mind while viewing the work.



NATURE: EXPLOITATION vs. COOPERATION

People use nature and interact with it in different ways. Sometimes it is cooperation, respect, admiration, but often colonization, exploitation, and destruction. Look at the artistic works and think about the areas they touch.

? What important minerals / substances and stories related to them do you know? Do you know what conflict minerals are?

Ray, Susanne Kriemann uses photography as a research tool, an archival technique, and a material object. In this project, she deals with gadolinium – a rare-earth metal, whose history is long and turbulent (see the catalogue).

? What materials are used in art? Is art itself unecological? How can we create art without a carbon footprint?

Untitled, Vivian Suter. In 2005, a mudslide destroyed the works kept in the artist's home studios. "Back then, I saw it as a disaster, but as [the images] started to dry up, the colors came out and I realized that I had to start working with nature, not against it." Since then, her paintings have been created in cooperation with nature.

• What materials are used in art? Is art itself unecological? How can we create art without a carbon footprint? What materials are used in industry?

?
• Which animals are exploited by people most?
• Consider whether the eponymous crimson in Gurowska's work is just a color or does it stand for something else, too?

? Which creatures are generally considered as beneficial and which as pests? What does this division result from?

Red, Małgorzata Gurowska. 155 000 – this is roughly the number of the cochineal larvae needed to produce 1 kilogram of carmine - the E120 food dye. 155 000 drops of cochineal-free red ink were applied to the notebook by the artist as an homage to these creatures.

Homo Anobium St. Francis 100% sculpture 1680–1985, Czekalska + Golec, a sculpture made in cooperation with a common furniture borer.

NATURE: EXPLOITATION vs. COOPERATION

For the Earth, Teresa Murak

Dinner with Dead Machines, Prabhakar Pachpute & Rupali Patil

• What is the relationship between humans and machines? Can modern-day humans be self-sufficient / independent of nature?
• What image from the history of art does this work remind you of? What is the relationship between these images?

? What does this work suggest about the nature of the human-animal relationship?

Tools, Nicolás Lamas

Eat death, Bruce Neuman

Nauru notes from a cretaceous world, Nicholas Mangan

? Who is the addressee of the text on this print?

Passages, Antje Majewski draws upon the experience of her family whose lives have been intertwined with the forest for generations. The artist's grandfather, a forester, saw the forest as a dynamic system which becomes more resilient and lush with a variety of species growing in it.

Co-existence – 7 Paths of Roses, Ryszard Waśko

? What do you associate these shapes on canvas with?
• What is biodiversity?
• What are the properties of forest monocultures / industrial plantations compared to natural forests? What is monoculture?

Rewolt IV, Frans Krajcberg used to live in the vicinity of the Brazilian jungle, where he made sculptures from found materials -- roots, branches, and palm leaves dyed with natural pigments. He would go on trips to various regions of the Amazon, during which he photographed the process of burning the jungle. He used charred tree fragments in his sculptural works. He's been an ardent activist since the late 1970s.



INSTRUCTIONS AND INSPIRATIONS

This small exhibition space is devoted to the search for solutions to the challenges arising from climate change. We call it instructions and inspirations. Some of these works explore ideas related to engineering, technology, education, and joint action. Others turn towards spiritual activities that integrate humans with nature. You can also look for such instructions and inspirations in all other sections of the exhibition.

? What are some examples of how science, technology, and art work together to improve the environment on a global scale?

Ice Stupa in Ladakh Sonam Wangchuk. An engineering project to irrigate fields in areas undergoing desertification in the north of India. The artist points to the areas already suffering from the effects of global warming, such as the melting of natural glaciers.

?

- What fields of overexploitation, apart from natural resources or animals, come to your mind?
- What is the situation of people living in the so-called global South?

? What kinds of artistic activities can change reality permanently?

Rasheed Araeen formulated a program of eco-aesthetics. He has proposed that artists launch useful processes implemented by local communities or create a network of cooperatives and ecological villages based on fair cooperation between the global North and the global South.

O Peixe (The Fish), Jonathas de Andrade portrays human relations with animals and the environment, which are based on violence, control, exploitation, and domination, and at the same time are close, complex, and ambiguous.

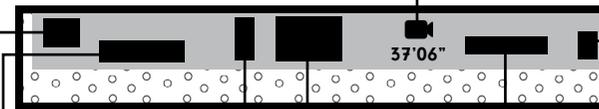
? What sources provide you with descriptions/images of human closeness to nature?

Drawings, Magdalena Starska

? Reflect on the artists' spiritual searches. What can people learn from a closer interaction with nature?

? Looking at the graphics, consider: what might the paths of change illustrated in them be?

Legend: A Temporary Futures Institute, Kasper Bosmans. The artist visualizes various models of social change according to the book *Four Futures* by Jim Dator



Summer 1987, 15 July - 15 August, Lilehammer, Teresa Murak. Documentation of work in the Scandinavian landscape on an organic sculpture made of leaven and subject to changes and interaction with other organisms.

Sculptures for the Earth, Teresa Murak used her body to make this sculpture in earth matter. The sculpture refers to her parameters (the depth of the pit, 162 centimeters, is the artist's height).

Praying for the Rain, Maria Pinińska-Bereś

Footloose, Simryn Gill

? What emotions do natural processes, such as rotting, molding, and fermentation trigger in you? Do you know how they work?

? How do we use natural resources? Do we think about their efficient use?

Keepers of the Waters, Betsy Damon, a documentation of the activities of an NGO which aims to support scientific, educational, and artistic projects related to raising awareness about the water crisis.

? What materials can be recycled or reused multiple times?

- Which of the materials you know don't decompose?

? How do you use water every day?

- What water resources does Poland have and what problems is it facing in this respect?
- How can visual means be used for activism?

FORCES OF NATURE vs. HUMAN FORCES

Nature remains strong and powerful, although men has been gradually assuming control over it. In this part of the exhibition, you can ask yourself whether people are able to face the elements in the form of tsunami waves, earthquakes, or droughts? Does wrestling with nature make any sense at all?

? What do you think about rigid divisions into extremely different parts/values? What does such description of reality entail?

The First Mark, Peter Nadin & Natsuko Uchino & Aimée Toledano. A video by an artist who took up beekeeping and agriculture in order to find a solution beyond the well-established divisions: nature-culture, the world of humans and nonhumans.

The Vistula Fabric, Agnieszka Brzeżańska

Ghostpopulation, Ines Doujak combines human bodies with the bodies of animals and plants and constructs interspecies creatures without favoring any species in her collages.

Isometric Systems in Isotropic Space – Map Projections, Agnes Denes

Repairing Earthquake Project Nishiko has been running since 2011. It began in the wake of the tsunami and the preceding earthquake, which devastated the shores of Japan. The artist collects damaged items, repairs them, and returns them to their owners.

?

- What could be causing the weather anomalies? How can people "repair" their ravages?
- What is the role of the "scars" on the objects?

Ideological Resonator #3, Andrea Zittel reflects on the role of the Sun which may be an adversary (causing drought), and at the same time, a source of renewable energy. Living in a California desert, the artist researches new forms of living and adapting to the changing climatic conditions.

? How do you experience the effects of weather anomalies, such as droughts, fires, sudden rainstorms, or strong winds?

Sunset on a Lake, Maria Pinińska-Bereś

Greetings from Jerusalem Avenue. A Nest. Night, 31 May 2019, Joanna Rajkowska

? Do you know of the installation "Greetings from Jerusalem Avenue" known as the Palm Tree at the Charles de Gaulle Roundabout in Warsaw? The exhibition includes an element found in it during the public project "Death of the Palm Tree". Look up when it took place and what it was about.

Untitled, Simryn Gill

How Rivers Think, Oskar Santillán During a journey down the river Kushuimi, a tributary of the Amazon, every 600 metres artist collected a sample of water containing fragments of vegetation from the nearby rain forest. The eighty samples were then poured into slides.

? After leaving the museum take a look at the shores of the Vistula River, observe the differences between right and left banks - think weather their development has an impact on the local ecosystem?

Glass of petrol, Agnieszka Polska

Collective of Monks Praying to Kill Owners of Corporations Responsible for Environmental Pollution at the Suzuka River in Yokkaichi, Mitsutoshi Hanaga

? What role do totems play?

- Do you know what the sixth extinction is?

Terminal Beach, Isabelle Andriesen. The processes take place on the surface of sculptural installations resemble a progressive disease. The artist draws attention to the irreversible changes occurring on our planet.

? Is the human able to harness the forces of nature once and for all?

- What will be left after people on Earth? What might the "fossils of the future" look like?

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