

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LAND IS THE SAME THING

February – April 2018, Nice, France

Curated by Chiara Nuzzi, *What Happens To People And What Happens To The Land Is The Same Thing* is an events programme realized in the frame of the residency ACROSS 16# organized by *thankyouforcoming* in Nice. The project explores the role of art in ecological emergency, investigating its intersections with environmental commitment, political ecology and indigenous knowledge in relation to our time.

The whole programme, divided in different episodes covering the whole residency, presents works that question nature's inextricable bonds to economics, technology and culture. The first chapter of the project takes place on February 15th with a curator's lecture and a screening night running from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. The session presents a selection of works by artists **Ursula Biemann & Paulo Tavares**, the **Karrabing Film Collective** and **Uriel Orlow**. In this frame, the selected films develop different narratives revealing in turn the resistance by Sarayacu Indigenous people facing the expansion of large-scale extraction activities in Ecuadorian Amazon (Biemann & Tavares), the Indigenous knowledge and culture in contemporary Australia (Karrabing Film Collective) and the alternative medicine's repression in 1940s urbanized South Africa (Orlow).

What, today, can be considered possible models for the reconfiguration and a renovated balance of human existence? Is it still possible to reconnect us with our own environment? Moving from such questions, the project aims to reveal the still active ramifications of colonialism, suggesting a reflection on alternative systems, past, present and future, that involve indigenous references and anti-capitalistic models of living.

The further two chapters of the programme entails the exhibition-installation of the video work *Night Soil – Nocturnal Gardening* by **Melanie Bonajo** (March) on view at the non profit space Le Narcissio and a collective exhibition in the shape of a sound walk taking place in a Botanical Garden of the French Riviera (April) with contributions, among others, by **Islands Song** (Silvia Ploner & Nicolas Perret), **Annika Kappner**, **Giacomo Raffaelli** and **Anna Raimondo**. On this occasion, French artist **Mathilde Dadaux** will present a new specifically conceived performance.

The third season of the program ACROSS is realised with the support of the Region Provence – Alpes – Côte d'Azur.

The events program is realized with the support of the Prize ON BOARD 2017 promoted by MiBACT Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism - General Directorate for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Suburbs and by GAI - Association for the Circuit of the Young Italian Artists

SCREENING PROGRAMME:

Forest Law by Ursula Biemann & Paulo Tavares (2014), one channel video essay, 32'03"

The project draws from research carried out in the oil-and-mining frontier in the Ecuadorian Amazon, one of the most biodiverse and mineral-rich regions on Earth, currently under pressure from the dramatic expansion of large-scale extraction activities. At the heart of *Forest Law* is a series of landmark legal cases that bring the forest to court and plead for the rights of nature and indigenous people. Taken together, the narrations expose the multiple dimensions of the tropical forest as a physical, legal, and cosmological entity

Ursula Biemann (born 1955, Zurich) is an artist, writer, and video essayist. Her practice is strongly research-oriented and involves fieldwork in remote locations where she investigates climate change and the ecologies of oil, ice and water. She took part in several exhibitions at the Arnolfini Bristol; KIASMA, Helsinki; Jeu de Paume, Paris, Steirischer Herbst and in International Biennials such as Sao Paulo, Gwangju, Sharjah, Liverpool, Bamako, Istanbul and Venice.

Paulo Tavares is a Brazilian architect and urbanist based in Quito/London. His work is concerned with the relations between conflict and space as they intersect within the multi-scalar arrangements of cities, territories and ecologies. Tavares's practice combines design, media-based cartographies and writing as interconnected modalities of reading contemporary spatial conditions. He is currently developing a project on the violence of planning and the politics of ecology in Amazonia at the PhD Programme of the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, UK.

When the Dogs Talked by Karrabing Film Collective (2014), 33'53'

As a group of Indigenous adults argue about whether to save their government housing or their sacred lands, their children struggle with how the ancestral Dreaming makes sense in their contemporary lives filled with hip-hop and dinosaur bones. *When The Dogs Talked* mixes nonfiction and fiction in a thoughtful yet humorous drama about the difficulties Indigenous communities face living within the structures of modern white culture while maintaining a sense of their own traditions and relationship to the land.

The Karrabing Film Collective is a grass-roots media group. Most Karrabing live on a rural Indigenous community in the Northern Territory, Australia with low or no income. Their films have been screened at Berlinale Shorts Competition; Gertrude Contemporary Melbourne; Institute for Modern Art Brisbane; Oslo Academy of Fine Arts and elsewhere.

The Crown Against Mafavuke by Uriel Orlow (2016), one channel, 19'18"

The film restages a South African trial from 1940: The Crown Against Mafavuke Ngcobo. Ngcobo was a traditional herbalist who was accused by the local white medical establishment of 'untraditional behaviour'. The film explores the ideological and commercial confrontation between two very different medicinal traditions, touching on therapeutic uses of plants, indigenous knowledge and alternative medicine in post-colonial, migratory and urban contexts.

Uriel Orlow's (1973, Zurich) practice is research-based, process-oriented and multi-disciplinary including film, photography, drawing and sound. His work is concerned with spatial manifestations of memory, blind spots of representation and forms of haunting. Among the venues which exhibited his work are: The Showroom, London; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; Depo, Istanbul, 54th Venice Biennale, Sharjah Biennial 13, Manifesta 9, EVA International (2016, 2014) and many others.

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Chiara Nuzzi (b. 1986, Naples, Italy) is an independent curator and researcher living and working between Italy and Belgium. Her practice revolves around the relation between art and collectivity, analysing the social function of art and its effects as a tool to rethink and transform our society. Her survey pays great attention to moving images and sound and, since 2015, she is artistic co-director of Sonic Somatic, a Florence-based festival ranging between visual arts and music production.

Thankyouforcoming : <http://thankyouforcoming.net>

Thankyouforcoming operates as a platform to devise, facilitate, produce and foster art projects, by working closely with artists, art critics and curators. Since 2015, *thankyouforcoming* runs ACROSS, an innovative short art critic/curator residency program developed from Nice, which aims to support the emergence and renewal of critical and curatorial practices, through research and exploration on the field.

Le Narcissio : <http://www.le-narcissio.fr/>

Le Narcissio is a new contemporary art space directed by DEL'ART in Nice.

GAI : <http://www.giovanartisti.it/en>

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