

A large, weathered rock formation, possibly a natural arch or a large rock with a hole, stands on a rocky beach. The rock is grey and textured, with some yellowish-brown lichen or moss on its surface. A person wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and pants stands on the beach to the right of the rock, providing a sense of scale. The background shows the ocean and a clear blue sky.

10 May - 22 June

SAM SMITH
LITHIC
CHOREOGRAPHIES

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The earth is constantly read as if it were a script needing to be interpreted, a trace of hermeneutics persistent in the age of advanced technology.

Jussi Parikka, *A Geology of Media*, 2015

Over two artist's residencies on the Swedish island of Gotland, Sam Smith directed and produced *Lithic Choreographies* in which nature, creature, earth and human are counterpoised within deep-time. Smith chronicles the histories of the island's geological strata over the millennia, from its bedrock of calcified equatorial marine organisms to the current soil-enriching practices of permaculture.

Incrementally the land has accumulated, been weathered by the elements and sculpted into monolithic raak, or limestone stacks. Smith perceives the earth and its ancient stones as vibrant, imbued with reactive energies, but also vulnerable. Under the impact of human industrialisation, and its own volition, the earth's cohesive bonds break in disruptive moments allowing for transformation.

Evoking the sublime and the contemplative, the artist presents evolution as a human preoccupation. Where the observation, qualification and containment protocols of science and culture stand in contrast to spontaneity, intuition and curiosity.

Allison Holland, Curator

LIST OF WORKS

Archive, 2019
neon light, electrical components

Lithic Choreographies 2018

4K film with sound. Duration: 50 minutes

Cast: Antoine Arquié, Ana García Barbé, Femke Blom, Alisa Dendro, Bettina Donkó, Sara Eliason, Florent Golin, Olivia Gustafsson, Hans-Ove Hellström, Kamuran Kivanç Kaftanoğlu, Lars Kruthof, Thibault Lac, Sergii Lutchenko, Jan Luthman, Sarah Monnier, Gabriel Norberg O'Sullivan, Johanna Pietikäinen, Hanna Sjöberg, Laura Vass

Cinematography, editing, visual effects and sound design: Sam Smith

Camera assistants: Staffan Enström, Oskar Pedersen

Sound recordist: Anders Nyström

Dubbing mixer: Matt Coster for Audio Uproar

Costume and styling: Scott Ramsay-Kyle and Bronwen Marshall, with clothes by Christopher Raeburn

Research and editing assistance: Nella Aarne

The Hologram text: Nella Aarne and Sam Smith

Translation: Elaine Bolton, Héléne Gibbings, Petter Yxell

Opening narration: Guta Saga, The History of the Gotlanders

Brucebo Artist House: Artwork by Carolina Benedicks-Bruce and William Blair Bruce

Film clip: The Virgin Spring (Jungfrukällan), Ingmar Bergman, 1960

Special thanks to Helen Beltrame-Linné, Angelica Blomhage, Marco Marcon, Tom Mels, Freya Mitton, Anna Norberg, Hanna Wärrff Radhe, Helena Selder, Julie Smith, Robin Smith, Dr. Gustaf Svedjemo, Soula Veyradier

Film på Gotland: Paola Ciliberto, Sandra Fröberg and Ville Jegerhjelm

An International Art Space commission for spaced 3: north by southeast

Produced with the support of Baltic Art Center

Scans from *Gotland Museum archive #1-5*, 2019
colour inks on Hahnemuhle paper

RESOURCES

Curated by Nella Aarne

Richard Grusin ed., *Anthropocene Feminism*, University of Minnesota Press, 2017

María Puig de la Bellacasa, *Matters of Care*, University of Minnesota Press, 2017

Jussi Parikka, *Geology of Media*, University of Minnesota Press, 2015

Kathryn Yusoff, *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*, University of Minnesota Press, 2018

PERFORMANCE

Sam Smith performs *E.1027*

At Cement Fondu, 36 Gosbell St,
Paddington NSW 2021

Wednesday 15 May, 6.00 pm

See acp.org.au for more details



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