

MA

Museo nazionale
delle arti del XXI secolo

22 > 27 October 2024

videogallery

Symposium + film screening

*Shaken Grounds, Shifting Skies**Art as a Seismography of Precarious Presences*

*The geo-philosopher moves along the crest of turbulence, on the shoulders of waves that envelop mind, energy, and matter, and that diffuse them into the atmosphere **

Even before the Anthropocene, disruptive geological forces were compelling artists to reflect on the fragility of existence and the origins of their age. Such events raised fundamental questions about where to ground reason when the conditions of life could shift so radically. Natural disasters - like the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in southern Italy - have long served as focal points for both scientific inquiry and artistic reflection.

According to the myth of Rome's founding, Aeneas entered the underworld through the trembling Phlegraean Fields - now surrounded by Europe's largest illegal toxic dump - to seek guidance on where to settle after his long journey. On the other hand, the major eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE was associated with the sudden threats posed by the Iron Age, a period marked by austerity and wars that prompted a range of artistic responses. Today, areas prone to seismic activity are influencing artistic research and expression in a different way. While such places once connected people to a polytemporal worldview, they now bear the weight of new, man-made pressures. Global warming, groundwater extraction, resource mining, clean energy technologies, and waste disposal are all increasing the strain on the Earth's crust, resulting in human-accelerated earthquakes.

This almost incomprehensible, yet undeniable phenomenon highlights the complexity of the ecological crisis, revealing disturbing new entanglements between humanity and the environment.

The artist collective *Shaken Grounds* revisits the continental margins of southern Italy, exploring the intersections of natural seismic activity and anthropogenic environmental damage through an interwoven mesh of artistic experiments. They recognize that the trembling of the earth, once regarded as one of Gaia's natural forces, is now being driven by human interference as well. Art, as research and practice, excels in detecting and expressing the changing relationship between humanity and our evolving, technologically influenced, and highly damaged geological environment. At this symposium and screening event being held at the MAXXI videogallery, guests will present a combination of scientific and experimental talks that will incorporate process-oriented video imagery. Audience talks will offer space for questions, exploring how film, performance art, and geology intertwine with artistic research.

A documentary of the symposium will open on November 7, 2024, at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Rome and will be on display until November 28. It will also be part of the group exhibition *Imagine Climate Dignity: Artistic Collaborations*, being held in February 2025 at the Künstlerhaus Vienna.

Supported by Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs Austrian Cultural Forum, Rome University of Applied Arts Vienna Angewandte Performance Lab (APL) Support Art and Research Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

* Gilles Deleuze, *The Fold: Leibniz and the Baroque* (London: The Athlone Press, 1993), XV

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Program

22 > 24 October 2024

With Nikolaus Gansterer, Mariella Greil, Peter Kozek and Lucie Strecker, in collaboration with Valerio Acocella, Arno Böhler, Alexander Damianisch, Helga Franza, Nicolas Freytag, Nicola Fornoni, Victor Jaschke, Werner Moebius e VestAndPage, Andrea Pagnes and Verena Stenke.

Tuesday, October 22

5:00 p.m. Welcome: MAXXI Artistic Director Francesco Stocchi and MAXXI Head of Guidance and Development Department, Irene de Vico Fallani

5:15 p.m. Introduction and screening: *Shaken Grounds, Shifting Skies*, with Nikolaus Gansterer, Mariella Greil, Peter Kozek and Lucie Strecker

6:00 p.m. Zoom intervention: *Seismosentience* by Andrea Pagnes

6:30 p.m. Lecture: *Strata of Artistic Research* by Alexander Damianisch

7:00 p.m. Audience talk moderated by Alexander Damianisch

Wednesday, October 23

11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Screening and exhibition: *Shaken Grounds, Shifting Skies*

3:00 p.m. Resonance I: Summary of the previous day, discussion and close viewing with Nuée Ardente, Nicolas Freytag, Peter Kozek and Lucie Strecker

5:00 p.m. Welcome and introduction, Mariella Greil and Peter Kozek

5:15 p.m. Screening: *Shaken Grounds: Scenes in Between*

5:30 p.m. Talk and screening: *Traces of Volcanic Attitude, Helga Franza*

6:15 p.m. Performance lecture: *Rituals of Resonance* by Mariella Greil and Peter Kozek, with Victor Jaschke

7:00 p.m. Audience talk moderated by Alexander Damianisch

Thursday, October 24

11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Film screening *Shaken Grounds, Shifting Skies*

3:00 p.m. Resonance II: summary of the previous day, discussion, and close viewing: *Framing – Sensing* by Victor Jaschke with Peter Kozek, Nikolaus Gansterer, and Mariella Greil

5:00 p.m. Welcome and introduction, Nikolaus Gansterer and Lucie Strecker

5:15 p.m. Screening: *Vulcanalia* by VestandPage (Verena Stenke and Andrea Pagnes) and Nicola Fornoni

5:45 p.m. Impulse lecture: *Earth's Unrest: The Interplay of Magma and Quakes* by Valerio Acocella

6:15 p.m. *Translecture on Shaken Grounds* by Arno Böhler and Nikolaus Gansterer

7:00 p.m. Audience talk moderated by Alexander Damianisch

From 25 to 27 October the film screening *Shaken Grounds, Shifting Skies* continues in videogallery during the Museum's opening hours (11am-7pm)

MAXXI | videogallery

Shaking ground, moving skies. Art as a seismography of precarious presences

Symposium and film screening: 22 > 24 October 2024

Film screening: 25 > 27 ottobre 2024