

Nature, Culture and Perception. From the Amazon to the Alps

L
T
U
U
C
N
E
G
R
N
A
L
I
L
S

Conference
30th September – 2nd October 2019
Lucerne and Altdorf

Visual Arts and Science in Dialogue

A COOPERATION BETWEEN

UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN

VIDEO WINDOW

HAUS
FÜR
KUNST
DANIOTH PAVILLON
URI

PATRONAGE



INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

L
T
U
U
C
N
E
G
R
N
A
L
I
L
S

Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen

Humanity has long stretched the basis of its own existence, the biosphere, beyond its limits and is now threatening this acutely. On the one hand, the romantic image of the supremacy of nature is obsolete. The zone on our planet in which we are able to live is unique and, in comparison with the infinity of the universe, imperceptibly tiny. On the other hand, we irresponsibly overlook our calamitous attacks on the biosphere: attacks such as the emissions made by those who consume fossil fuels as they fly or drive or the impact of the factory farming made necessary by our meat consumption. It appears that we are still insufficiently aware of the scope and the consequences of the disappearance of the last major natural pristine refuges. Otherwise, wouldn't we have long since acted to arrest the rapid loss of biodiversity and climate change? Our conclusion is that there is a massive problem of both awareness and political (in)action.

The conference starts with this issue of perception and asks why we still haven't changed our behaviour. It has two goals: to draw attention to this destruction of our biosphere, in other words our self-destruction, and to consider sustainable solutions. It connects two natural habitats that could hardly be more different: the Amazon and the Alps. Upon closer inspection, these two regions are closely comparable due to the following characteristics: Both are endangered by resource depletion, overexploitation and accelerating climate change. And furthermore, each of these cultural regions provides a wealth of valuable experience of symbiotic relationships between man and nature based on centuries of tradition.

A close dialogue between art and science sheds light on the perception and analysis of this dramatic transformation and the threat that it brings. Five films are followed by six scientific inputs covering the specialist areas of climate research and cognitive perception as well as questions of power, law and resources in the two cultural regions. At the end, the conference asks how things can proceed in the future and which concepts of sustainability and justice are available.

PROGRAMME

PART 1

30th September 2019
stattkino Luzern, Bourbaki Panorama

17:30 – 18:00 Registration

18:00 – 18:15 **WELCOME**
Boris Previšić

18:15 – 19:45 **INPUT 1. ARTISTS' STATEMENTS**

INTRODUCTION
Bruno Z'Graggen

SCREENING OF THE 5 FILMS

Break

20:00 – 20:30 **DISCUSSION**
Rodrigo Braga, Cao Guimarães, Melanie Smith and Laurence Favre
Moderation: Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen



1 Rodrigo Braga
Mentira repetida, 2011
DCP, Colour, Sound, 5:24 Min.

2 Cao Guimarães
Concerto para Clorofila, 2004
DCP (from Super 8 Film in DV PAL),
Colour, Sound, 7:25 Min.



3 Melanie Smith
Fordlândia, 2014
DCP, Colour, Sound, P, 29:43 Min.

4 Ursula Biemann
Deep Weather, 2013
DCP, Colour, Sound, E, 9 Min.



5 Laurence Favre
Résistance, 2017
DCP (from 16mm Film), Colour, Sound, 11 Min.

PART 2

1st October 2019
Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern

- 9:30 – 10:00 **INTRODUCTION**
Boris Previšić
- 10:00 – 10:45 **INPUT 2. PLANETARY BOUNDARIES AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS**
Sarah Cornell
Earth's Nature: Exploring the Challenges of Planetary Perceptions
Feedback Focus: Boris Previšić
Break
- 11:15 – 12:00 **DISCUSSION**
Sarah Cornell, Rodrigo Braga, Laurence Favre, Cao Guimarães and
Melanie Smith
Moderation: Boris Previšić
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 16:45 **INPUT 3. DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE (RESOURCES):
HISTORY, CULTURE, LAW AND POWER**
Hannah Meszaros Martin
**The Green Desert and La Casa Grande: The Politics of Planting and
Environmental Truth-Telling in Colombia**
Feedback Focus: Daniel Speich
Jonas Perrin
**Indigenous Land Rights in International and Ecuadorian Law:
A Right to Veto?**
Feedback Focus: Klaus Mathis
Break
Mabe Bethônico
Mining History in Brazil: Memory and Myth as Power Tools
Feedback Focus: Malte Gruber
- 16:45 – 17:30 **DISCUSSION**
Mabe Bethônico, Hannah Meszaros Martin and Jonas Perrin
Moderation: Daniel Speich

PART 3

2nd October 2019
Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf
Exhibition: Desire and Reality. Depictions of Nature in Contemporary Art

- 9:00 – 10:00 Transfer Lucerne – Altdorf by bus
- 10:00 – 11:00 **INPUT 4. DIVERSITY OF PERCEPTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART**
Barbara Zürcher and Bruno Z'Graggen
Guided Tour through the Exhibition
Accompanied by the Artists of the Exhibition: Mabe Bethônico,
Rodrigo Braga and Cao Guimarães
Break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **INPUT 5. PRECARIOUS ALPS: THE END OF A MYTH**
Jon Mathieu
**Human-Nature-Relations in Alpine History:
The Forest Transition, 1700–2000**
Feedback Focus: Rodrigo Braga and Melanie Smith
Barbara Keller
Our Water: Six Models for the Future
Feedback Focus: Cao Guimarães and Laurence Favre
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 14:45 **INPUT 6. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLIDARITY**
Klaus Mathis
Sustainability and Solidarity: Challenges, Concepts and Strategies
Feedback Focus: Melanie Smith and Mabe Bethônico
Break
- 15:00 – 15:45 **CONCLUSION: OPEN PLENUM DISCUSSION**
**Where Are We Going to? The Future of the Amazon and the Alps:
Common Sense or Differences?**
Moderation: Boris Previšić
- 15:45 – 16:30 Drinks and Farewells
- 16:30 Transfer Altdorf – Lucerne by bus

GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANISED BY

Stiftung Lucerna, 6002 Lucerne

www.lucerna.ch

Contact: Silvia Cavelti, 041 229 55 32

Registration: www.lucerna.ch/Anmeldung
(free of charge until: 18th September 2019)

VENUES

PART 1 **stattkino Luzern** (places limited)

Bourbaki Panorama, Löwenplatz 11, 6004 Lucerne
www.stattkino.ch

PART 2 **Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern**

Europaplatz 1, 6002 Lucerne
www.kkl-luzern.ch

PART 3 **Haus für Kunst Uri**

Herrengasse 2, 6460 Altdorf
www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch

A COOPERATION BETWEEN

UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN

VIDEO WINDOW

HAUS
FÜR
KUNST
URI
DANIOTH PAVILLON

SUPPORTED BY

oko
Forschungskommission
der Universität Luzern

FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

PATRONAGE

THE CLUB OF ROME

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Mabe Bethônico (BR), Researcher and Artist, Belo Horizonte and Geneva

Dr. Sarah Cornell (UK), Global Sustainability Science, Stockholm Resilience Center, Stockholm University

Barbara Keller MA (CH), Vice Director of the Swiss Alpine Museum, Berne

Dr. Hannah Meszaros Martin (CO), Forensic Architecture, Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths University of London

Prof. em. Dr. Jon Mathieu (CH), History, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathis (CH), Public Law, Law of the Sustainable Economy and Philosophy of Law, University of Lucerne

Jonas Perrin, PhD student (CH), Public Law, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH), Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH), Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

Barbara Zürcher MA (CH), Director of Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

ARTISTS

Ursula Biemann (CH), Zurich

Rodrigo Braga (BR), Rio de Janeiro and Paris

Laurence Favre (CH), Geneva and Berlin

Cao Guimarães (BR), Belo Horizonte and Montevideo

Melanie Smith (UK), London

FEEDBACK FOCUS

Prof. Dr. Daniel Speich (CH), Global History, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Malte Gruber (D), Philosophy of Law and Law of Economy, University of Lucerne

IDEA, CONCEPT AND REALISATION

Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH), Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH), Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition, www.brunozgraggen.ch/video-window



oko
Forschungskommission
der Universität Luzern

FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN

VIDEO WINDOW

HAUS
FÜR
KUNST
URI
DANIOTH PAVILLON

oko
Forschungskommission
der Universität Luzern

FNSNF
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

THE CLUB OF ROME