

MALDIVES PAVILION – 55TH VENICE BIENNALE

June 1st – November 24th 2013



Incompatible Elements

Parallel projects of Maldives Pavilion

By Josephine Starrs and Leon Cmielewski

Curated by Camilla Boemio

Gervasuti Foundation

Fondamenta S'Anna, Venice

Opening 15th October at 16.00 p.m.

Period: 15th October / 20th October

Open: Tuesday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Closed: Mondays

Nearest Vaporetto stop: Giardini

If the earth beneath our feet could speak ... *Incompatible Elements*, by Australian artists Starrs and Cmielewski, curated by Camilla Boemio, Associate Curator at the Maldives Pavilion, represents the relationship between nature and culture by reconfiguring land as active rather than neutral, verbal rather than mute, and therefore able to comment directly on the impacts of climate change. Building on the long tradition of artists combining text and image to communicate ideas and concepts, poetic texts are digitally embedded into satellite images of landscapes in crisis.

In each digital print and video these texts reveal themselves dynamically, growing out of the landscape in different ways, the text design and method of reveal reflecting the qualities of the landscape.

Leon Cmielewski and Josephine Starrs are Australian artists whose long term collaboration has produced hybrid media art installations that often use play as a strategy for engaging with the social and political contradictions inherent in contemporary life. Their recent work, *Chapel of Rubber* was shown in the arts festival, Cementa13, in Kandos, in mid-western NSW from February. It was installed in the old nunnery chapel as a shrine to the street machine burnouts that take place in Kandos every January on the Australia Day weekend. Their work is situated at the juncture of cinema, information visualisation, and data mapping, playing off the tensions between the large and small screen, and between information and sublime landscape. Their installation *Incompatible Elements*, has been shown several times in Australia and overseas. This version has been newly created for the Maldives Pavilion. Leon Cmielewski is a senior lecturer at the University of Western Sydney.



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