

Utopia Project

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Utopia is a project placed in Antarctica. Its mission is to raise awareness about the climate change, the melting of the ices and its consequences on the planet. It's composed by many works; the group is formed by an ice installation as the main project and by utopian works. It proposes alternative solutions to the environmental problems that can help the "thinking outside the box". The artistic view with limits allows the feedback of the scientific field with renewed ideas, many seen as science fiction today, but that may will become a reality in the future.

Artistic proposal

The art field poses alternative solutions to environmental issues that may become an inspiration to the scientific field. The artistic thinking has no boundaries and generates an interesting feedback with new ideas with the scientific thinking. Nowadays may seem science fiction sceneries but in the future they may be real.

Central installation

The central installation consists on an ice sculpture that melts during the exhibition period. In the beginning it can be seen from any angle of the room. While time goes by, the room will start to flood, making it impossible for the visitors to walk around. This shows clearly what's happening in the world with climate change. It's a metaphor of what could happen in the

future if we don't do something and invites the visitor to experience in the flesh what's happening in the world.

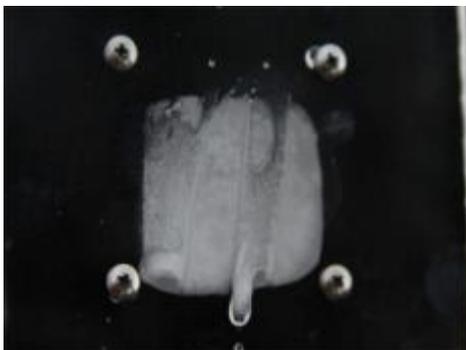


Utopian works

The utopian works represent solution proposals that as crazy and unusual as they may seem to be, they could work as an inspiration to the scientific world to generate real solutions. From the work done in the white continent three pieces have been done: Don Quixote against climate change, Extinction-Creation and Stillness. The first two have been exhibit in Buenos Aires, London and Havana.

- **Don Quixote against climate change**

It consists in a group of wind mills, installed in Antarctica and other locations that will generate cold to maintain the glaciers and poles avoiding the trhaw. It is a metaphor of the character from Don Quixote de la Mancha, the Cervantes' book, who tries to fight against the windmills in a sort of impossible task.



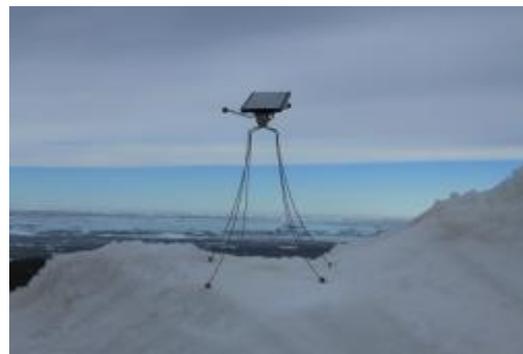
Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p8zkHypJa0&feature=youtube_gdata_player

- **Extinction – Creation**

40 million years ago Antarctica was a warm continent and habitat for many animal and plant species. The drastic cooling provoked a process of mass extinction. The sun it's the only thing that kept almost the same and connects that past of millions of years ago with the present.

Solar flowers and insects represent the turning point between the Antarctic past with its fossils and the future; where the man with his technological capacity has begun to develop the mystery of life and could be the start of the recreation of species already extinct or the creation of new ones.



Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMr82Wq8cC4&feature=youtube_gdata_player

- **Stillness**

The stillness of the ice next to its surroundings full of life, the sea, the birds, takes us to a critical reflection about nature that presents itself to us in pause, while the rest agitates and passes by. The Antarctic nature shows us its omnipresence in the stillness of an instant.

This project consists in a video installation, which shows three videos of icebergs with aluminum frames that work also as a system that generates cold and ice.

At first glance they simulate live paintings, but under a sharp gaze they show an infinity of instants, the constant appearance and existence of the icebergs and their inherent lives.



Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKurfTHvWg&feature=youtu.be>

- **Ice Project**

It's a new work in progress that consists in the projection of three or four icebergs floating on the sea.

These screenings will provoke a feeling of being immerse in the cold sea.

To increase the feeling even more, the idea is that the projections get down even to a part of the floor and that the room is refrigerated so it seem like the harsh white desert.



Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQuHYzs6j5E>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NLeizKD-8Y>

Group project

This is presented as a dissemination and encounter platform for international artists. The idea is to gather different artists from all over the world interested in proposing solutions to reduce global warming effects.

The utopian projects could be exhibit around the central installation (they can be in any format: video, installation, photos, etc).

Basis

Between utopia and dystopia

Since Industrial Revolution, technology has been available for most people and with that possibility, there was an idea that humanity's future would be perfect; technology and science would bring the necessary elements to achieve a utopian world.

However, nowadays science is the one that poses that achieving that ideal world would be impossible. From very different areas, they stand that perfect and sustainable states are impossible. Through Gödel Theorem, math demonstrates the impossibility of a perfect or ideal arithmetic operation. On the Physics side, thermodynamic principles show that energy's quality gets worse with every transformation and universe's entropy increases. Einstein considered that we could never reach the speed of light. If we try to reach the speed, our mass would multiply to infinite. From the social point of view, democracy has its own perfection impossibility theorem. Even nature isn't perfect, and allows itself to have genetics flaws and natural disasters that threaten the balance of many of the "utopian" projects.

Are we doomed to dystopia? Nowadays we have an excess on media messages, or as Marshall McLuhan would call it, the "massage" of the media, related to the future of both society and the planet. From the entertainment business, movies that show a near future are filled with chaotic situations that let us think of a possible dystopia. Movies like Metropolis –which is set in a dystopian and futuristic scenery and was released when the movies still didn't have sound-started a movie genre that produced famous titles such as , A Clockwork Orange, Blade Runner, Terminator and Matrix, among others. In all of them, the future is shown as pure chaos and consternation where the desire to become a harmonious society has been shredded to focus on evolution and progress. That future seems hopeless for homo sapiens sapiens.

The complex and unpredictable world vs. the organized and perfect world

It's human essence to set goals, fight against conformism and create and be part of the unpredictable that sometimes can be something dangerous.

If the utopian, perfect world becomes real, would we be able to accept to have everything solved? Would we act like the same way as always if we knew the exact moment of our death? And if technology could make us immortals, would we bear to know that everything is forever?

Global warming

From the environmental point of view, accidents like Chernobyl, oil spill in the oceans, or volcanic eruptions show us that the world is irretrievably globalized. Probably for the first time in human history it is necessary to act all together.

This global objective might be what could bring societies together and become a common goal for humanity. Despite the irony of a utopia, human essence leans to take actions to avoid, or at least slow down the progress towards a possible dystopian destination.

Antarctica, a continent between utopia and dystopia

Antarctica is a unique place. It's beauty made different countries to claim sovereignty over it. Distant nations such as United Kingdom or Norway and those closer like Argentina or Chile

have claimed for decades to the UN sovereign rights until the signing of the Antarctic Treaty. In 1959 the Antarctic Treaty was signed among several countries to establish rules and a moratorium for the nations' territory complaints. This treaty minimized man's direct impact over the region. Also, there have been several campaigns and the zone has been free of disputes for over 50 years. This can be seen as a great achievement and maybe as a step closer to utopian scenery between men and nations. On the other hand, ice retreat over the last decades is overwhelming, the impact on global warming is noticeable, and it seems like an example of the climate changes we can face and turn everything into a dystopian situation.

The Antarctic National Office (DNA) and the Antarctic Institute, that report to the Argentinean Chancellery, are institutes that work to ensure compliance to the Antarctic Treaty and regulate the scientific, artistic and educational activities in the region, together with the rest of the nations that are part of the agreement.

The Project took shape thanks to the Cultural Programme of the Antarctic Office of the Argentinean Chancellery and the Art Centre of Spain in Buenos Aires.