

EXIT: A 360 degree artwork reflects the troubled state of the planet and the true cost of climate change now

Commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, based on an idea by French philosopher and urbanist Paul Virilio, created by leading US artists and architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with architect-artist Laura Kurgan, statistician-artist Mark Hansen and artist-designer Ben Rubin.

Australian premiere presented by UNSW Galleries in association with Sydney Festival with support from major sponsor the City of Sydney.



"A stark reality check for Earth's inhabitants."
The Guardian UK

EXIT, 2008-2015

View of the installation *EXIT*. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris © Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Mark Hansen, Laura Kurgan and Ben Rubin, in collaboration with Robert Gerard Pietrusko and Stewart Smith. Photo © Luc Boegly

Sydney, Australia: UNSW Galleries is proud to present the Australian premiere of a major new exhibition which holds a dramatic mirror to the dire state of the world today. *EXIT* is a picture of a planet in trouble. On a 360-degree animated map of the world, *EXIT* visualises the planetary crises that are otherwise impossible to comprehend: the displacement of populations, disasters both natural and man-made, and the decimation of entire cultures, environments and livelihoods. Drawing on data from UNESCO, the World Bank and scientific sources, it is a real-time picture of a world breaking down. This immersive installation stunned Paris during the 2015 UN global climate talks. This is a global forecast that Australians cannot afford to miss.

EXIT is presented in association with the Sydney Festival and major sponsor the City of Sydney. A visual art highlight of Sydney Festival 2017, the exhibition will be presented at UNSW Galleries from 7 January to 25 March.

Presented alongside the exhibition will be an extensive series of public programs including talks by the artwork's US-based creators who will visit Australia for the first time to discuss this compelling artwork.

Conceived by acclaimed French philosopher and urbanist Paul Virilio and created by leading US artists and architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with architect-artist Laura Kurgan and statistician-artist Mark Hansen with a core of scientists and geographers, this complex and significant artwork was originally created in 2008. The work was commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain for its 2008 exhibition *Native Land, Stop Eject*, curated by Hervé Chandès, General Director and it is now part of the Fondation Cartier Collection.

It subsequently traveled to the Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen during the COP15 in 2009 and to the Alhóndiga Bilbao, Bilbao for its inauguration in 2010. It was completely updated in October 2015 on the occasion of COP21 where it was displayed at the Palais de Tokyo. The evolution of its data has dramatically changed to reflect the alarming shifts in human movement and the true cost of climate change on the world today and in the 100 years ahead.

A timely, informative and compelling artwork, *EXIT* was created in response to the increasing evidence of dramatic Anthropocenic changes to the planet. The artists and architects behind the artwork have visualised the fact that global populations are more unstable than any previous time in world history, with unprecedented numbers of migrants leaving their home countries for political, economic, and environmental causes.

The work explains in visual terms what impact this might have on the future of the planet. *EXIT* was created to quantify and display this global condition and explore its far-reaching consequences. The 360-degree installation immerses the viewer in a dynamic presentation of data documenting those contemporary patterns of human movement. In *EXIT*, the viewer enters a 360-degree circular space and is surrounded by a panoramic video projection of a globe rolling around. The installation "prints" animated maps as it spins. The land masses and visualisations are a product of data, collected from a variety of sources, geo-coded, processed through a programming language, and translated visually to provide a dramatic picture of the world today and insights into the future of the planet.

The installation is divided into 6 narratives to reflect key themes and areas of exploration. The narratives include:

Population Shifts; Cities; Remittances: Sending Money Home; Political Refugees and Forced Migration; Natural Disasters; Rising Seas and Sinking Cities; Speechless and Deforestation.

The artwork has prompted countless observations about global patterns in human movements. However, there are several significant facts which stand out under each of the artwork's themes. Key findings reflected by the installation include:

Population Shifts: Cities

There are now as many people living in urban areas as in rural areas. This first map shows this shift of population: each pixel of the map represents one thousand people, and the pixels are distributed equally between urban and rural areas. Cities are the key battlefield in the fight against climate change, emitting roughly 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Sources: Gridded Population of the World, version 3 (GPWv3) and version 4 (GPWv4): Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); The World Bank; Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), 2015; The world's fastest growing cities and urban areas from 2006 to 2020: City Mayors, Statistics.

Remittances: Sending Money Home

Remittances from immigrants represent the first source of foreign investment in developing countries. The animation shows the five top remitting countries, represented by their flag, as well as the large number of countries receiving remittances. In 2014, migrants sent more than 389 billion euros to developing countries. In these countries, remittances exceed foreign aid by 3 to 1.

Sources: The World Bank, Bilateral Migration Matrix, retrieved from go.worldbank.org, 2013; The World Bank, Bilateral Remittance Matrix, retrieved from go.worldbank.org, 2014.

Political Refugees and Forced Migrations

This map shows the continuous movement of people forced to migrate away from their homes because of war, persecution and violence. Refugees are displaced outside of their country, while internally displaced people (IDPs) are displaced within their own country. Green pixels represent refugees, while red pixels represent IDPs. There are currently about 19.5 million refugees worldwide, and more than 38 million IDPs. This is the highest number since the end of World War II.

Sources: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database (scraped August 2015).

Natural Disasters

This map shows the disproportionate toll paid by developing countries to natural disasters, in comparison to industrialised countries. An artificial line divides the world in two hemispheres, and stresses that the victims and damages are much more significant in the South than in the North, for a similar disaster. Since 2008, natural disasters displace on average 26 million people per year—that is one person every second.

Sources: EM-DAT, The Emergency Events Database: Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Université catholique de Louvain, École de Santé Publique; Dartmouth Flood Observatory, Active Archive of Large Floods; Project of Risk Evaluation, Vulnerability, Information and Early Warning (PREVIEW), Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), Global Resource Information Database (GRID); Earthquakes Hazards Program by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Historical Hurricane tracks data, NOAA's National Weather Service by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Rising Seas, Sinking Cities

The average sea-level rise is expected to be around one meter by the end of the century. This map shows the cities located in coastal regions that will be affected by this sea-level rise. The cities in question, however, are not equally vulnerable, because of different development levels and other factors. The animation highlights the cities that are most vulnerable, and are at risk of sinking.

Sources: Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project, version 1 (GRUMP) – Settlement Points: Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University; International Food Policy Research Institute (IPFRI); The World Bank; Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), 2004; Gridded Population of the World, version 3 (GPWv3) – National Boundaries: Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University; International Food Policy Research Institute (IPFRI); Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse-gas Induced Climate Change; A Regional Climate SCENario GENerator; CO2 emissions: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; The Elevation Query Web Service: USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Speechless and Deforestation

The destruction of tropical forests also represents the destruction of indigenous people's livelihoods, cultures and languages. The map shows the ongoing process of tropical deforestation in three different regions: Xingu Park in Brazil, South-East Cameroon, and Jambi Province in Sumatra, Indonesia. In each of these regions, indigenous peoples are at risk, as well as their cultures and languages. More than half of the 6,700 languages that are spoken today are in danger of extinction by the end of the century.

Sources: UNESCO, *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*, 2009; World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Indonesia and Setiabudi (2015); Sumatra Forest and Land Cover Change 1985-2014 Database; Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia WARSI (KKI WARSI); Forest Peoples Program (FPP); World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Central Africa Office, Cameroon; Forest Atlas, Cameroon, World Resource Institute; Instituto Socioambiental (ISA); Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE), Projeto PRODES 2014; Human Footprint and Last of the Wild v2:

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Center for International Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, 2002; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), The World Bank; Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT); NASA MODIS 32-day Composites, The Global Land Cover Facility; University of Maryland; Global MODIS hotspot/fire location data: Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS), University of Maryland.

Artwork Credit: *EXIT*, 2008-2015

Based on an idea by Paul Virilio, created by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Mark Hansen, Laura Kurgan and Ben Rubin, in collaboration with Robert Gerard Pietrusko and Stewart Smith.

Scientific Consultant: François Gemenne, Researcher and professor of migratory movement linked to climate change, Sciences Po, Paris

Scientific collaborators on *Speechless and Deforestation*: Bruce Albert, Director of research at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), François-Michel Le Tourneau, Director of research at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS).

Project Leaders: David Allin, Matthew Johnson. Sound Designer: Hans-Christoph Steiner.

Speechless and Deforestation was produced by the Alhóndiga Bilbao, Bilbao, in collaboration with Unesco.

With special thanks to the following individuals at the Center for Spatial Research at Columbia University: Juan Francisco Saldarriaga, Associate Research Scholar; Madeeha Merchant, Associate Research Scholar; and Jonathan Izen, Research Assistant.

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EXHIBITION KEY DETAILS:

Where UNSW Galleries Cnr. Oxford St and Greens Rd, Paddington NSW 2021.
Tel: 02-8936 0888

When 7 January – 25 March 2017, Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm

Tickets FREE

Information <https://www.artdesign.unsw.edu.au/unsw-galleries>

Commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris

ABOUT UNSW GALLERIES:

Located on the UNSW Paddington campus, UNSW Galleries presents an ambitious program of changing exhibitions and projects exploring recent ideas and research in art and design, creativity and culture, science and technology. More like living creative laboratories than traditional exhibition spaces UNSW Galleries is a platform for experimental curatorial research and practice, staging transformative exhibitions and projects that advance new modes of cultural production and engagement. As part of its dynamic program, UNSW Galleries develops projects, workshops and events in association with the National Institute for Experimental Arts.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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