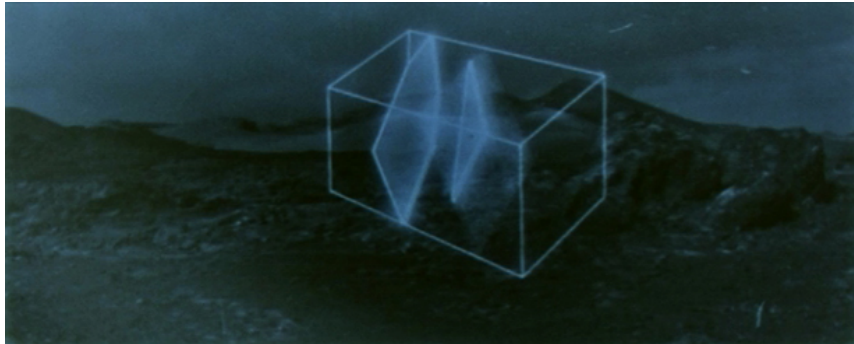


5 January 2011

Ben Rivers: Slow Action



Ben Rivers, Slow Action

Animate Projects is delighted to present *Slow Action* by Ben Rivers, a new four-part film about future island utopias. The work will be online on animateprojects.org from 21 January to coincide with the film's exhibition at Matt's Gallery, London.

Slow Action is a post-apocalyptic science fiction film that continues Rivers' exploration of curious and extraordinary environments. The film, shot in Lanzarote, Gunkanjima, Tuvalu and Somerset, applies the idea of island biogeography - the study of how species and eco-systems evolve differently when isolated and surrounded by unsuitable habitat - to a conception of the Earth in a few hundred years; the sea level rising to absurd heights, creating hyperbolic utopias that appear as possible future mini-societies.

The work includes animated scenes, which carry on Rivers' interest in the 'movie magic' of early cinema. The soundtrack - narratives by writer Mark von Schlegell - details each of the four islands' evolutions according to their geographical, geological, climatic and botanical conditions.

Commissioned by Picture This and Animate Projects in association with Matt's Gallery, London.

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Notes to editors:

Slow Action is online at animateprojects.org/films from 21 January as four films.

Slow Action premiered at Picture This, Bristol first as a work-in-progress in November 2009, then as a four-screen installation in November 2010.

Slow Action shows as a single-screen installation at Matt's Gallery, London from 26 January to 20 March 2010.

On 16 January, Animate Projects and the London Short Film Festival present a screening of films by Ben Rivers at the Curzon Soho, followed by an 'in conversation' with artist filmmaker Andrew Kötting after the screening. Visit curzoncinemas.com.

An interview with Ben Rivers about Slow Action can be seen on the Picture This website.

About Ben Rivers

Ben Rivers studied Fine Art at Falmouth School of Art, 1990-93. He has exhibited widely at international film festivals and galleries, and won various awards. He received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists 2010, and was shortlisted for the Film London/Channel 4 Jarman Award 2010.

He has been the recipient of a number of commissions, including LAFVA 2007, for which he made two films – Origin of the Species and Ah, Liberty! and Vauxhall Collective commission 2008, making I Know Where I'm Going. He was included in ICA's Nought To Sixty programme, and has had solo shows at A Foundation, Liverpool in 2009 and Kate MacGarry, London in 2010. Visit benrivers.com.

About Picture This

Picture This develop artists' film and video through commissions and exhibitions. Their resources are used by artists and arts organisations, and their events, exhibitions and publications contextualise projects within current developments in contemporary art. Visit picture-this.org.uk.

Other funders

The project is also supported by Bristol City Council, Arts Council England, Daiwa Japan Foundation, the Elephant Trust and the British Council.

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects explores animation and its concepts in contemporary art practice. Our programme operates at the intersection of the contemporary visual arts, animation, film and design. We seek to offer artists a particular and supportive space to create new work and we enable a UK and international audience to engage with it via broadcast, gallery, cinema and online, and through critical debate.

Our recent projects include: Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Appropriate, an online exhibition with work by Dave Griffiths, Cordelia Swann, Jason Dee and Osbert Parker; and; Finding the Telepathic Cinema of Manchuria, a new commission by American artist David Blair.

Animate Projects is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Visit us at animateprojects.org

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Picture This

Matt's Gallery