

## The Commons- Die Allmende : Research Statement

This research is in the fields of aesthetics, cartography and environmental change.

A series of drone photographs, text, and a short film showing alternately on 4 separate screens around the exhibition space.

Shot across continents over a year of the pandemic, this series of images, explores the contemporary notion of 'die Allmende', or the commons. Two vastly contrasting sites at the edge of their altitudinal and environmental extremes were chosen; the Aletsch Glacier in Switzerland and the southern shores of the Dead Sea in Israel and Jordan. Through the diverse media of text, cartography, (aerial) photography and film (6 minutes), an insight and context to their parallel and distinct evolution is documented and contrasted.

Vast barren landscapes on the edge of human settlements, owned by everyone and no-one. An ecstasy of life abandoned, never inhabited, or on the very limits of habitability. Deserted. Vulnerable. Abstract. Ragged elements exposed, pillaged. Weather erodes. Water hovers around salt, suspended in the atmosphere. Tectonic plates collide, disturbed landscapes of valleys, depressions, peaks, and ridges. In this reckless nature we see the future and are reminded of the past. Rough and smooth, stable and flowing, dry and moist, forceful and calm, unsettled and constant.

The series features remnants of salt lakes in Middle Eastern deserts and newly exposed fluid geologies revealed through the retreat of glaciers, their unconsolidated geological masses and salts leaching back into the valleys. Ranging from 3000 metres above- to 400 metres below a shifting sea level, the lowest place on earth, each of the sites exhibit a combination of geological processes and environmental forces through accelerated shifts of the troposphere and the lithosphere, above and below the terrain. The forces that constructed the sublime return, simultaneously etching their marks deeper into its surface and erasing it.

The key contribution of the exhibition content to the field is twofold - systematically documents the climatic evolution of two geographically distant locations, as well as exploring the connection of the sites through their contrasting mineral, textural, and erosive characteristics. The resulting documentation reveals the accelerated processes of landscape transformation and site dissolution, as these contrasting sites react to extremes of temperature, hydrological and wind erosion.

The resulting recordings of the accelerated impacts of climate change at the extreme corners and altitudes of the biosphere serve as systematic documentation and link the fates of disparate and apparently unconnected ecologies.

The exhibition, in the central space in one of the worlds most important Architecture Biennale Exhibitions was open to the public from the 22nd May until the 19 November 2021. The significance of the exhibition is evidenced by the level of some of the other participants invited by Olafur Eliaison (SOS) and co-curators, including: Achim Menges / ICD University of Stuttgart , Aerocene Foundation, Allan Wexler Studio, DESIGN EARTH, doxiadis+ecoLogicStudio, Fernanda Canales, Ivan L. Munuera, Michel Desvigne Paysagiste, Miralles Tagliabue, Philip Beesley Studio, Ian B Architecture & Urbanism, PRÁCTICAROJO / FERNÁNDEZ-SHAW, arquitectos, Smout Allen, Studio Other Spaces, Superflux, Vogt Landscape Architects.

The „Future Assembly“ exhibition within the Venice Biennale has been published in various magazines, websites, and reviews:

<https://www.archdaily.com/965163/more-from-the-2021-venice-architecture-biennale-exhibitions>

<https://www.dezeen.com/2021/05/25/visitors-impressions-venice-architecture-biennale-2021/>

<https://pinupmagazine.org/articles/andrew-pasquier-venice-architecture-biennale-review-2021>

<https://www.frieze.com/article/how-will-we-live-together-17-venice-architecture-biennale-2021-review>

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/studio-other-spaces-installation-at-venice-architecture-biennale-features-fungi-and-trees/ar-AAKoc4W>

### Authorship:

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Video concept, direction, video editing

Drone Photography at the Aletsch Glacier , Switzerland

All photography, editing, pre-production, layout

Cartographical renderings - concept & execution

Text, concept and execution

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Photography at the Dead Sea, Israel and Jordan

Text, concept and execution