

MACBA presents *Corpus Infinitum*, filmic experiments on a planetary view of the world

► A project by the artist and philosopher, Denise Ferreira da Silva (Rio de Janeiro, 1963), professor at the Social Justice Institute of the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) and associate professor at the School of Art, Design and Architecture at Monash University (Melbourne, Australia), and artist, writer and filmmaker Arjuna Neuman (born on a plane in 1984).

► *Corpus Infinitum* brings together as installations the three films that Ferreira da Silva and Neuman have produced to date: *Serpent Rain* (2016), *4 Waters – Deep Implication* (2019) and *Soot Breath // Corpus Infinitum* (2020) — along with related archives — in which they propose alternatives to the destructive consequences of Western constructs

► Internationally renowned, their work takes up the long emergency of colonialism and capitalism, raising questions of ecology, extraction, territory, slavery, sovereignty and migrancy through an intersection of colonialism, race and aesthetics. What does it mean to disorder Western thinking? What other ways of knowing — across cultures, time, space and form — can we learn/relearn?

<https://www.macba.cat/es/sobre-macba/prensa/rueda-prensa-corpus-infinitum>



Corpus Infinitum

Project by Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman

28 April – 25 September 2023

How can we understand existence other than from the post-Enlightenment, binary notions of *humanity and nature*? How can we approach all that exists without prioritizing human subjectivity over all other species and non-human forms? Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman's collaborative films propose a planetary view of the world as plenum (*corpus infinitum*), a complex terrain in which human, geological, bacterial, and meteorological environments are not independent forms and phenomena but one organism.

Guided by the four elements—water, earth, fire, air—their filmic works edit together footage of both micro and macro landscapes, animation, and archival documentation through references that range from quantum mechanics, the blues, diverse philosophies, classical physics, colonial theory to cartomancy. The intellectual and sensorial experience of the works across scale, surface, and perspectives present inquiries into how subjectivity is constructed, how we come to know, and ways to unsettle that knowledge through a polyrhythmic entanglement that displaces hierarchies of rational experience.

Ferreira da Silva and Neuman's films propose alternatives to the destructive consequences of Western constructs to imagine other ways of knowledge production across cultures, time, space, and form, while considering urgent global issues including migration, displacement, legacies of colonialism and ecological devastation. In doing so, their works question how structures of power and categorizations of difference generate rifts between humans, the more-than-human, the earth, and the cosmos.

Corpus Infinitum brings together the installations of Ferreira da Silva and Neuman's three films to date: *Serpent Rain* (2016), *4 Waters – Deep Implicancy* (2019) and *Soot Breath // Corpus Infinitum* (2020), as well as archives related to the films.

PUBLICATION – QUADERN PORTÀTIL

Quadern portàtil #39 Se avecina un terremoto

The essays 'Ancestral Claims' (2022), 'The Glitter Within' (2022) and 'An Earthquake is Coming' (2023), by the philosopher Denise Ferreira da Silva and the filmmaker Arjuna Neuman and now translated for the first time into Spanish, share a common background: decolonisation as the only relevant ethical principle of our time. This principle is reflected in their way of making films, for example, questioning the eye – a privileged organ for the assimilation of visual culture – or making a critical review of the use of intertitles and of a type of cut – wormhole – that does not reinforce linear time, but instead assembles an infinitely exploded space where every film, every image, every sound, exists through others.

Quaderns portàtils is a series of publications freely distributed on the Internet. The texts frequently come from lectures and seminars that have taken place at MACBA, as well as from out-of-print exhibition catalogues. The documents are available in PDF and ePUB formats.

Inaugural Talk

Thursday 27 April, 6.30 pm. MACBA Atrium

Coinciding with the opening of the exhibition, Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman will have a conversation with Elvira Dyangani Ose, Director of MACBA, around their planetary view of the world as a *corpus infinitum* in which the human, geological, bacteriological, and meteorological environments are entangled.

The work of Ferreira da Silva and Neuman propose alternatives to the destructive consequences of Western constructs. What would it mean to disorder post-Enlightenment notions of *nature* and *world*? What other ways of knowing can we learn/ re-learn? What would become of thought if it were guided by the elements?

Free admission

Activity in English with simultaneous translation in Catalan

BIOGRAPHY

Denise Ferreira da Silva

The artist and philosopher Denise Ferreira da Silva is a professor at the Social Justice Institute of the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) and associate professor at the Monash University School of Art, Architecture, and Design (Melbourne, Australia). In the autumn of 2022, she was a visiting professor in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University. In spring 2023, she is occupying the International Chair of Contemporary Philosophy of the Department of Philosophy of the Paris 8 University.

She is the author of *Toward a Global Idea of Race* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007), *A dívida impagável* (Workshop of Political Imagination and Living Commons, 2019), *Unpayable Debt* (Stenberg / MIT Press, 2022) and co-editor (with Paula Chakravartty) of *Race, Empire, and the Crisis of the Subprime* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013).

Her artwork includes the films *Serpent Rain* (2016), *4 Waters: Deep Implicancy* (2019) and *Soot Breath / Corpus Infinitum* (2020), in collaboration with Arjuna Neuman, as well as the relational artistic practices *Poethical Readings* and *Sensing Salon*, in collaboration with Valentina Desideri. She has performed shows and lectures in important artistic spaces, such as the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Whitechapel Gallery, London; MASP, São Paulo; Guggenheim, New York, and MoMa, New York. She

has also written for publications for major art events (Liverpool Biennial, 2017; São Paulo Biennial, 2016, Venice Biennale, 2017 and documenta 14) and published in art spaces such as Canadian Art, *Texte zur Kunst* and e-flux. She lives and works in the traditional, ancestral and unceased territory of the Musqueam people (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm).

Arjuna Neuman

Arjuna Neuman is an artist, filmmaker and writer. Recent solo exhibitions include CCA Glasgow and Glasgow International, Scotland; Showroom Gallery, London; Belkin Gallery and Or Gallery, Vancouver; TPW Gallery, Toronto, and forthcoming at Kunsthalle Wien, Austria, and Santiago Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago de Chile. Recent biennials include Hacer Noche, Mexico; Ural Industrial Biennial, Russia; Lubumbashi Biennial, DRC; Bergen Assembly, Norway; Sharjah Biennial, UAE; Venice Biennale, Italy, and Qalandia Biennial, Palestine. Notable group shows include at the National Archaeological Museum, Naples, Italy; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon; Whitechapel Gallery, Bold Tendencies and LUX, all London; amongst many others. His work is held in the Belkin Collection and Platform UK collection. As a writer he has published essays in Relief Press, Into the Pines Press, *The Journal for New Writing*, *Artvoices*, *Flaunt*, *LEAP*, *Hearings*, *World Records*, *Umbau* and e-flux. He has mixtapes essays on Dublab, Radio Alhara and NTS, and is the co-founder of www.archiveofbelonging.org, a database for migrants and refugees.

■ MORE INFORMATION AT macba.cat and @MACBA_Barcelona

■ MACBA: Plaça dels Àngels, 1, 08001 Barcelona,

■ HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 am to 7.30 pm; Saturdays from 10 am to 8 pm; Sundays and holidays from 10 am to 3 pm; Tuesdays except holidays, closed. Summer hours from 10 am to 8 pm

■ SATURDAY MACBA afternoon, free admission thanks to Uniqlo

■ ADMISSION VALID FOR ONE MONTH