

Act II Book cover of *The Thing from Another World* by John W. Campbell, 1938

Archipelago — A Problem (On Exactitude in Science)

04.11.–23.12.2018

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Gabriel Kuri
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Joëlle Tuerlinckx
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Curated by
Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk

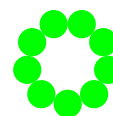
The exhibition *Archipelago — A Problem (On Exactitude in Science)* centres around a fictitious, mental archipelago where a group of mathematicians, geologists, cartographers and other scientists try to index the measurable facets and phenomenological manifestations that they uncover during their research expedition. As the unprecedented landscape is subject to constant change and fluctuations, the advanced instruments with which the research group is equipped prove to be unsuited to recording and documenting their observations and findings accurately. The scientific languages they employed elsewhere do not appear to correspond in any way to their somewhat predetermined, stable patterns of expectation, preconceived knowledges and epistemological registers: the diversity of living conditions and environments found within the archipelago appears so diverse and unstable that every island seems to require its own individual linguistic and scientific approach. To this end they decide to develop a new compendium entitled *The Sea Island Mathematical Manual* in order to do justice to a world of constant change using a series of —to use philosopher Donna Haraway's words—SFs (science fact, science fiction, speculative fabulation, so far).

The observation of natural phenomena is an exercise in perception and representation that is contested on many levels: from the accurate use of measuring equipment to the social and political exploitation of information. *Archipelago — A Problem (On Exactitude in Science)* investigates how the composition of artistic practices can represent the negotiation and slippages between scientific and non-scientific knowledge production by measuring the impact of climate change in times in which stable backdrops have ceased to exist. Searching for new relational templates and approaches in inter-agentivity between humans and non-humans, the exhibition aims to advocate for the loosening of thought from the constraints of human phenomenality, as structures of being do not necessarily correspond with structures of lived experience.

In that sense, the exhibition assembles a diverse range of artistic practices and works that confront our tendency to endow the human figure with the capacity to be at the basis of the reconstruction of entities we perceptively and empirically encounter. The exhibition aims to destabilise our self-imposed central role within the scheme of things. Moving from the loss of the seemingly objective to its recovery in the field of fiction, the exhibition is an invitation to navigate and chronicle a mental archipelago that is constantly becoming but never quite arriving. Here we can no longer poke the things we encounter with a stick in order to see what they have to say or—for that matter—employ our measuring instruments to make deductions solely corresponding to our own anthropocentric logic. Life on the archipelago is one of embodiment, of applying oneself and working through and

with sympoiesis (to make and world-with conjointly), towards languages that were never our islands in the first place. Instead of resting all too comfortably in our category, we may as well develop navigational tools and translation tables for a different logic found in the relations *inter se* things.

TLÖN PROJECTS, Satellite Programme



Act II

Archipelago — A Problem (On Exactitude in Science)

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Curated by:

Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk

Venue:

Toussaintkade 49, The Hague (NL)

Opening Times:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00–18:00

Public Programme:

04.11.2018

Opening, 15:00–18:00

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