



100.000

02.04. – 26.05. 2013, STAIR

“Nuclear power and atomic energy are on the one hand fascinating in technical and scientific terms, and on the other, they conceal a monumental risk. A responsible handling of the intertence of this technology is one of the biggest challenges for human kind.”

Benten Clay

BENTEN CLAY is a global corporation with a cross-disciplinary approach. The focus lies on the production of a long-term project titled *Age of an End* in which the appearance of the now is analyzed, assessing the limitation of natural resources, their implementations, as well as mechanisms of power and volatility inherent to the human pursuit of control.

The name BENTEN CLAY derives from the world’s first nuclear Final Waste Repository plant in Finland, wherein the material *Bentonite Clay* is crucial — a superhero so to speak when it comes to securing the world from the effects of nuclear waste.

One main theme within *Age of an End* is the topic *Nuclear Waste*. Although it is largely understood that nuclear power is a misused form of energy in both ecological and economical planes, there exist 432 active plants worldwide and new ones are being built. Since 1951— the start of the „ peaceful use of nuclear energy”— there has not yet been a solution for ending the life cycle of nuclear material in a responsible and safe way.

Since 2004, Finland is building the world’s first repository for high-level nuclear waste on the peninsula of Olkiluoto; named „Onkalo” (Finnish for „little cave”). Onkalo is planned to be filled with spent and cooled down fuel from the Finnish nuclear power plants until the year 2120 and then irretrievably sealed. The construction of this branched system of tunnels, 450 metres deep within the Finnish bedrock, will host 5.000 tons of radioactive waste. It is supposed to secure its contents against external influences and leakages for the next 100.000 years. During this time span, these radioactive materials will continue to radiate and remain highly dangerous to both humans and the environment.

The exhibition 100.000 presents the two channel video installation *Craft*, which meshes the composed worlds of *Minecraft* video game with excerpts from an information video of *Posiva* (the operating company of Onkalo), and the footage of a car driving through unknown terrain. A composed video screening contains video works from the *R&D Studies* series *Ion*, *Mica Gneiss in Microwave*, *Signal Crayfish*, and *Yellow Cake*. The poster titled *Onkalo* can only be made visible with a special UV-lamp. It is a map of all important geological, chemical and technical parameters of the Olkiluoto nuclear waste repository.

Additional information:

<http://www.bentenclay.com> www.poriartmuseum.fi

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