

Résiliences

(or the need for a world-ecology)

Visual and sound installation by Etienne Bernardot

“Openness” and “Equality” are the two words that best reflect Etienne Bernardot's vision of the world. Thus, for several years, he has felt the need to address more "societal" themes in his works and to concretize them through his international projects. Since Art can facilitate a better understanding of the issues facing humanity and a more in-depth knowledge of the Other, *Resiliences (or the need for a world-ecology)* therefore questions the links that exist between human beings, their societies and their environment. Through a series of photos and a series of short experimental videos, the artist creates a snapshot of the different actions that humans operate on the general living system. It intends to show that beyond the concept of the Anthropocene ("the Era of the human") inducing that human activity would inevitably call into question the habitability of the planet, other possible alternatives exist if we Let's position ourselves from the angle of what historian Jason W. Moore calls the “Capitalocene”. It would therefore not be humanity in itself responsible for this disaster, but rather the capitalist mode of production: productivism.

Collaborate and share

This creation takes place in two stages. First an "itinerant" phase, a journey during which the artist goes alone to meet people, interferes in their daily life and explores their environment in search of images and sounds that will serve as basic materials. to highlight human beings as part of the ecosystem – whether natural or urban – and the environment exploited as a resource. Then, a second "sedentary" phase where he will work on the recordings brought back during this trip. The creation of the experimental videos leads him to seek to collaborate with a local musician, with the aim of composing a soundtrack made up of the sound elements captured during the first phase of the project on the one hand and, on the other hand, original music.

Like his previous works, Etienne Bernardot uses the body and gesture as aesthetic elements in his visual creation. His objective here is to report the everyday gestures of the men and women he will have met, so that they bear witness to their culture and their social origin while registering them in the environment in which they usually evolve. Preparatory work is therefore necessary in order to find resource people with whom to collaborate, in particular by addressing local associations. The *Resiliences (or the need for a world-ecology)* project thus has a documentary value because it offers an inventory, at a given time, of a country and a culture; it will therefore also be potentially intended to be extended to the four corners of the planet.

Aesthetic and technical, a digital and analog hybridization of creation

What does the confrontation between the two digital and analogue spheres create? Is it only a relationship between virtual and real? This new project by Etienne Bernardot seeks in the interstices of this confrontation the possible Reals that may arise.

A set of materials that are both translucent and reflective (plexiglass, tint-free mirror, etc.) or completely reflective are integrated into the frame during capture. In addition to the aesthetic interest of the frame in the frame created by the reflection or the effect of double exposure resulting from the transparency, this process makes it possible to propose other real spaces inside the initial frame. The artist thus creates a modification of the off-screen (that is to say the imaginary space extending the visible) and he constructs another way of inscribing the bodies in the environment, the environment in the bodies, the bodies in the bodies and the environment in the environment.

The post-production phase of the photographs and videos also gives Etienne Bernardot the opportunity to develop a new layer of interactions between digital and analog thanks to the protection and re-capture of images. During this stage, he works both in analog (on the projection support) but also in digital by animating the images and graphic elements through a frequency analysis of the soundtrack produced by the musician. Depending on the content, the projection medium differs and alternates between architectural elements, objects and materials. The artist uses this process inspired by the practice of silver printing which consists of using stencils (in order to more or less reveal areas of the image) or this or that paper (depending on the desired aesthetics).

Resiliences (or the need for a world-ecology) also questions the paradoxical feeling of fascination-repulsion due to the aestheticization of images of destruction. The work of Etienne Bernardot thus offers a sensory and immersive journey intermingling two different types of images and sounds (raw or aesthetic), leading to confusion between fiction and reality (and therefore a loss of sense of reality) while questioning at the same time the concepts of destruction and preservation. The public presentation of the project transcribes the stages of this graphic and aesthetic construction.