

Arjuna Neuman and Denise Ferreira da Silva

4 Waters – Deep Implicancy

September 29 — November 3, 2018

After breaking through the glassy, formal fixed walls of the Understanding, released from the grip of certainty, the imagination may wonder about reassembling the fundamental components of everything to refigure the World as a complex whole without order.

— Denise Ferreira da Silva

Arjuna Neuman and Denise Ferreira da Silva's film works, *Serpent Rain* (2016) and *4 Waters – Deep Implicancy* (2018), are experiments in entanglement and ways of "The Thinking of The World."¹

Neuman and Ferreira da Silva's artistic collaboration builds on their combined research and Ferreira da Silva's planetary view of the world as a plenum, a complex terrain in which humans and geological, bacterial, and meteorological environments, although at times seemingly differentiated, are never really independent forms and phenomena. Instead, for Ferreira da Silva, the human and non-human are elements of each other. Nor does she exclude time from the entanglement of space and beings: what is considered "past" and "history" are merely different stages and transformations of the present.

Ferreira da Silva and Neuman both engage and challenge the time-based medium of film to investigate such transformations, shifting between scales, surface and perspective, and land and landscape. The artists edit and compile a combination of overhead and macroscopic imagery to unsettle, rather than clarify and categorize, their visuals. This image-based "unsettling" is further emphasized by a bass-driven soundtrack, to which Neuman has paid particular attention throughout his filmmaking practice: it vibrates through multiple sound channels and envelops the separation between viewers and the found, archived, animated, and filmed images.

This flow – between sound, space, image, and viewer – echoes Ferreira da Silva and Neuman's interest in the form and ubiquity of water in *4 Waters – Deep Implicancy*. Here, water is a model for undermining the seminal influence of Plato and his metaphysics, which separates the world in terms of fixed, ideal abstractions and an illusory sensorial materialism.

Serpent Rain similarly undoes our bodies and time by blurring the biological and physical borders of our existence. The film considers the implications of this lack of separation in terms of the entanglements of capital and the economy that keep the so-called geological, biological, and historical past circulating as commodity and value.

This exhibition is the first in a series presenting art practices centred on the production and expansion of research narratives.

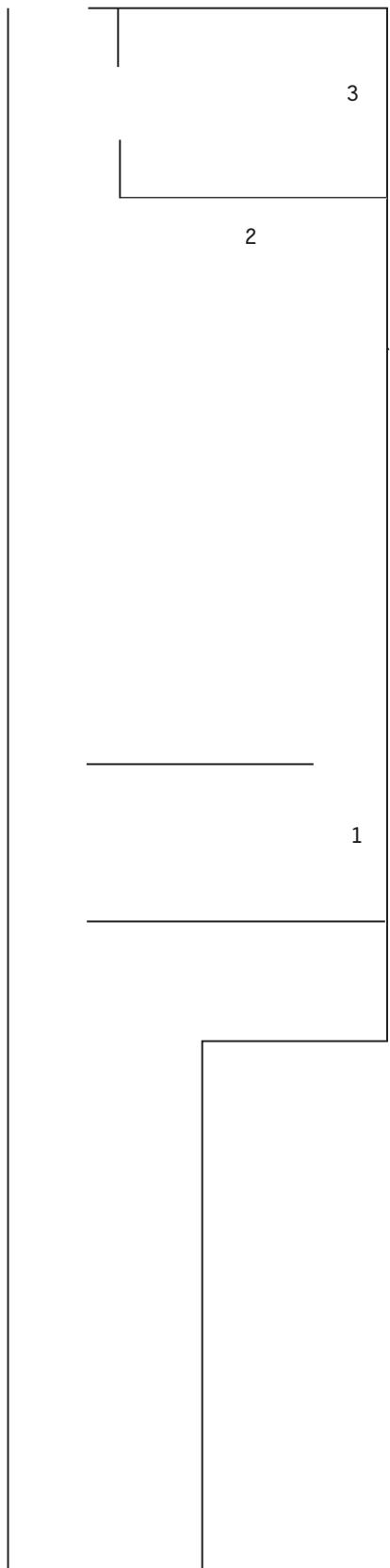
Serpent Rain was commissioned by Stefano Harney for The Bergen Assembly.

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VIFF Vancouver International Film Festival A Vancouver International Film Festival MODES Community Partner event

¹Denise Ferreira da Silva, *On Difference Without Separability*, 2016



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1. *Visionary fiction writing exercise on the future of the Haitian Revolution*, 2018
2. *4 Waters – Deep Implicancy*, 2018
duration 29:10
3. *Serpent Rain*, 2016
duration 30:00