

POST HOC

Dane Mitchell

New Zealand Pavilion

Dane Mitchell's projects heighten awareness of alternative and otherworldly knowledges. Generating spoken lists of phenomena that no longer exist, *Post hoc* spikes curiosity about the past in the present. The names of millions of bygone things ranging from dead words to extinct species, ghost towns and former nations are broadcast from the Palazzina Canonica on the Riva dei Sette Martiri, the former headquarters of the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR), to four sites across Venice. Line by line, the archival lists of lost and extinct entities are announced continuously by an electronic voice from within an echo free chamber in the stand alone building at the Palazzina to various points in the grounds and beyond. A poetry of the bygone, this inventory is transmitted to commercially produced 'tree' cell towers situated at the Palazzina and in specific locations throughout Venice. These poorly disguised, artificial pine trees are nodes in a communication network, each tree communicating audibly to listeners who can also connect to the unceasing signals via their phones.

Post hoc forms an invisible but audibly unique historical record that needs to be experienced in multiple locations. Beyond the Palazzina the transmitters are stationed at locations that relate to ideas of invisibility, transformation and loss. One receiving tree tower is situated in a green open-air courtyard of the working hospital and clinic Ospedale Civile di Venezia, an operating hospital in a notable building imbued with intangible infections and medical cures and containing a Museum of Anatomy and Library. Another tree is found infiltrating the entrance to Università Iuav di Venezia, the university of architecture, a site of speculative knowledge. One tree stands amidst the remains of Venetian maritime history in the North Arsenale and another broadcasts from within Parco Rimembranze, Sant'Elena in a garden originally planted to commemorate the fallen in World War I. The regular electromagnetic transmissions of entries in the lists emitted from the tree towers comprise an intangible sculptural field across Venice, a quality shared by many of Mitchell's projects.

Yet *Post hoc* will remain forever ungraspable and inconclusive. To hear the work in its entirety would require listening eight hours a day over the entire seven months of the Biennale Arte 2019. *Post hoc* is also incomplete in nature with unrelenting new losses and extinctions occurring as the present becomes the past. The digital tree towers also exemplify this obsolescence by becoming outdated in the face of the accelerating pace of technological development.

The enormous scale of *Post hoc*'s content is evident in the empty library on the second floor of the Palazzina, where the measure of loss is visible in the lists that are being printed in sync with the broadcasts. The printed paper slowly scrolls and fills the historic library over the duration of the exhibition, making the printed contents of the lists almost impossible to view over time. Overall, *Post hoc* confounds any empirical census or rationale and the listener is left to determine their own relationship to this invisible or lost past.

A Latin phrase, 'post hoc' translates as 'after this' and is a term used to disrupt the idea of a logical relationship between occurrences. Mitchell's *Post hoc* decouples any causality between extinction events or vanished 'past things', leaving aside responsibility or judgement for cause. In indexing an aftermath that endures, proliferates and accelerates, Mitchell's *Post hoc* provokes a larger question, that of the recalibration of our confidence in Western epistemologies and beliefs.

"From our current perspective, the history of progress looks more like a history of obsolescence, in which case a retrospective gaze gains a particular importance."

**POST HOC LEAD CURATOR
DR ZARA STANHOPE AND PROJECT
CURATOR CHRIS SHARP**

The Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR) is a public research institution. It conducts research in the field of marine sciences across polar, oceanic, and Mediterranean regions. The institute is part of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), a public organisation committed to carry out, promote, spread, transfer, and improve research activities in knowledge growth for the scientific, technological, economic, and social development of the country.

It is the first time the institute has partnered with a National Pavilion at the Biennale Exhibitions. Its focus on the marine world — including the risks it currently faces — forms the basis for a shared interest.

Palazzina Canonica

The Palazzina Canonica, located on the Riva dei Sette Martiri close to the Giardini, is the former headquarters of the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR). The Institute is a public organisation committed to undertake and promote research that develops the scientific, technological, economic and social advancement of Italy.

While the Institute's library is left empty on request for *Post hoc*, it contains significant holdings including maps and pilot books from the 17th and 18th centuries, and manuscripts, watercolour sketches and engravings detailing the Adriatic Sea, and Venice and the Lagoon in particular, dating back to the 16th century.

Università Iuav di Venezia, The Architecture School

Established in 1926, the Università Iuav di Venezia specialises in the research and teaching of architecture and is one of the earliest to be dedicated to this field in Italy. It provides architectural design and urban and regional planning programmes which now also encompasses visual arts, fashion and theatre. The building is one of three warehouses used by the university which originally provided storehouses for the port. The site also overlooks the 12th century church of San Nicolò dei Mendicoli, which appeared in the 1973 film *Don't Look Now*.

Ospedale Civile di Venezia, The Hospital

The historic precinct of the Ospedale Civile di Venezia is a working hospital and a museum. Entered through the museum of Scuola Grande di San Marco facing the Campo SS Giovanni and Paolo (Church of Saints Giovanni and Paolo), architecturally, it is part of a campus of Renaissance buildings that date back to the 15th century. In the 19th century it was an Austrian military hospital and today the museum includes a renowned medical library, a permanent exhibition on history of medicine, an historical pharmacy, and a Museum of Pathological Anatomy.

Sant'Elena, Parco Rimembranze

Once an island, Sant'Elena has been transformed into the eastern point of Castello, Venice due to receding water levels. The pines in the garden facing the water and adjacent to the Giardini were originally planted to commemorate the fallen in World War I.

North Arsenale, Internal Garden

The Arsenale, with its crenelated walls, was established in the 13th century as a dock connected to the basin of San Marco through a stream. It is a site of testimony to the powerful maritime mercantile trade and navy of the Republic of Venice that was founded on technical knowledge of ship construction, which has now been consigned to history.

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Project Leader



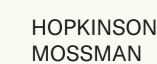
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01. Iuav University of Venice

Ponte Novo de Santa Marta
Dorsoduro 2196
30123 Venezia Italy
OPEN: Viewable all hours

02. Ospedale

Scuola Grande di San Marco
Campo dei Santi Giovanni e Paolo
Castello 6777
30122 Venezia Italy
OPEN: Daily, 8am-12:30

03. Palazzina Canonica

Riva dei Sette Martiri
Castello 1364
30122 Venezia Italy
OPEN: Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm

04. North Arsenale

Calle Giazzo
Bacini vaporetto stop
North Arsenale
30122 Venezia Italy
OPEN: Viewable all hours

05. Sant'Elena Gardens

Parco Rimembranze Sant'Elena
30132 Venezia Italy
OPEN: Viewable all hours

extinct languages	collapsed oceanic habitats	censored exhibitions	former capital cities
regions of lost darkness	lost archives	extracted native metals	missing and destroyed manuscripts
former trade routes	extinct volcanoes	tropical storms	lost comets
silent radio stations	dissolved political parties	submerged atolls	retired typhoon and cyclone names
extinct reptiles	destroyed mosques	extinct plants	discontinued burial techniques
discontinued fragrances	dinosaurs	lost films	repealed acts
closed and destroyed museums	defunct submarine telegraph and communications cables	retired fossil fuel power stations	lost scores
obsolete meteorological terminology	discontinued photographic films	closed radio stations	tsunamis
discontinued publishers	decommissioned nuclear facilities	superseded scientific theories	discontinued automotive fuel retailers
archaic and fossil words	data deficient species	tornadoes	cancelled military projects
former colonies	supermassive black holes	lost literary works	defunct non-renewable resource companies
things that melted	extinct prehistoric birds	lost and closed libraries	obsolete astronomical instruments
obsolete software	prohibited aroma molecules	obsolete aeronautical machines	unidentified flying object sightings
extinct fishes	discontinued computer system manufacturers	tax havens	missing aircraft
lost lunar samples	destroyed historical sites	extinct birds	dead religions
unpublished books	shipwrecks	impact craters on Earth	former communist states and socialist states
anthropogenic objects to have left the solar system	crashed markets	sinkholes	anthropogenic objects left on extraterrestrial bodies
former supercontinents	burned books	future solar eclipses	volcanic eruptions
extinct prehistoric mammals	dead words	destroyed artworks	former tectonic plates and cratons
disappeared sounds	superseded medical procedures	discontinued video game consoles	dust storms
discontinued operating systems	banned and withdrawn pharmaceuticals	extinct microorganisms	extracted minerals
subduction zones	defunct television networks and channels	non-military explosions	lost paleontological sites
lost islands	bridge failures	former national parks	defunct clean-tech companies
abandoned oil platforms	obsolete forms of measurement	failed banks	extinct foraminifera
obsolete calendars	gases	extinct sign languages	obsolete utensils
past geological supereons	former futures exchanges	defunct horology companies	extinct prehistoric fishes
voids	ships and submarines lost at sea	mines	obsolete audio formats
obsolete medical terminology	supernovae	obsolete media formats	droughts
missing artworks	closed art galleries	tar pits	abandoned hamlets and parishes
former nations, states, empires and monarchies	impact craters on the moon	former steel producers	enigmas
cured diseases	chimerical objects	destroyed churches	abandoned military sites
solids that sublime	discontinued automobile manufacturers	ghost ships	obsolete meteorological instruments
recessions	historical currencies	former bodies of water	extinct prehistoric invertebrates
obsolete tools	collapsed broadcast masts and radio towers	prohibited food additives and preservatives	obsolete farming techniques
archaic nomenclature for metals	former constellations	banned pesticides	failed utopias
radio quiet zones	ship graveyards	air bursts	defunct universities and colleges
unassigned country calling codes	retired hurricane names	anthropogenic sounds to have left the solar system	haunted locations
drying lakes	earthquakes	destroyed comets	dam failures
former national anthems	future lunar eclipses	discontinued railroad companies	failed insurance companies
images to have left the solar system	discontinued newspapers	tunnels	outmoded forms of telecommunication
black holes	solar storms	banned and forbidden foods	lost continents

names given to the wind

discontinued still cameras

defunct search engines

derecho events

oil spills

lost cities

objects of lost provenance

paleontological sites

wildfires

sunken lands

past geological ages

protected frequencies

common expressions of death

former country names

lost and destroyed fossil specimens and sites

discontinued film cameras

hurricanes

ghost stations

discontinued printers

closed cinemas

defunct glassmaking companies

banned films

retreating glaciers

floods

contaminated sites

former tributaries

razed theatres

defunct hard disc manufacturers

looted antiquities

discontinued airlines

deleted world heritage sites

superseded technological terminology

typhoons

abandoned train routes and lines

banned political parties

obsolete international call prefixes

heat waves

defunct software companies

destroyed synagogues

space debris

phantom islands

vanished wonders of the world

former international organisations

extinct prehistoric reptiles

hypothetical solar system objects

chimerical, fugitive, fictional, forbidden and impossible colours

vanished borders

inundated villages, towns and cities

theological deities and gods

fossil algae

past geological epochs

defunct magazines

destroyed temples

lost poems

destroyed and removed monuments

stolen artworks

planetary occultations

censored films and broadcasts

extinct marine plants

closed paper mills

banned building materials

discredited substances

former feudal states

extinct amphibians

obsolete low temperature technology

former anarchist communities

past geological periods

Aotearoa New Zealand's paleontological record

discontinued projectors

past geological eons

extinct domestic animal breeds

former lighthouses

extinct prehistoric plants

discontinued mobile phones

abandoned airports

former stock exchanges

ghost, lost and ruined towns, villages, settlements and cities

timekeeping devices

extinct mammals

former town and city names

lost minor planets

extinct musical instruments

lost plays

extinct prehistoric amphibians

lost television series

fast radio bursts

extinct invertebrates

obsolete print technology

past cosmological epochs

abandoned radar bases

hypothetical chemical compounds

past geological eras

extinct prehistoric fungi

analogue shutdowns

ocean currents