

Extirpation

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

Our relation to earth is not that of mutually beneficial symbiosis; we have become the kind of parasite that kills its host, even at the risk of killing itself. Aldous Huxley 1948

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reported that 60% of ecosystem services are degraded and 30% of species globally are under threat because of climate change.

Shaping a sustainable future (draft) The IUCN Programme 2009-2012

Extirpation is our response to the growing awareness of human impact on our planet. It transposes the vast complex interrelations of the ecosystem to a small, local, digital environment that is responsive to our presence and actions, here and now.

All donations go towards the **Australian Conservation Foundation**

Behind the Scenes

Extirpation is an inclusive digital ecology.

As one enters the space, a photo is taken of your face which is then placed on the leaves of the trees – effectively implicating everyone into the health of the system. By entering the space, one is integrated into the ecology.

We derive information from people's movements in the gallery, to generate a 'footprint', seen on the centre monitor. It takes into account position, the time spent in that position, the number of people in a given area, and also distance from the projected image. This footprint relates to the 'health' of the system – the trees health, the butterfly population and the soundscape all are affected by the health of the system.

The Visuals

The visuals are entirely generative – nothing is pre-rendered or animated in a traditional sense. Rather the trees and leaves grow, sway and fall dynamically. Each tree is unique, grown algorithmically using L system algorithms, the grass and butterflies react to presence. – *Jason*

Sound

Samples are triggered, arranged and affected by people's position in the space and their proximity to the projected ecology. The degradation of the systems health is represented by the degradation of the sample rate and bit depth of the entire sound-scape. (Insert excessive alliteration here) - *Adam*

Poetry - A Fire-Light Geometry

a poetic response to extirpation.

In preparing the poetic work 'A Fire-Light Geometry' for 'Extirpation' I kept the notion of interdependence firmly in mind. The notion of humans as woven into one another and their environment can be seen as a destabilisation of the self but such a destabilisation is perhaps essential if the true nature of our existence within a complex, interrelated ecosystem is to be experienced: 'you live inside me radiating a fire-light geometry'. - *Gareth*

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