

## WEEK 2

Ângela Ferreira  
Michael Sailstorfer  
Mona Schulzek  
Angelika J. TrojnarSKI

For week two, Nico Anklam and Pauline Ganns have assembled four works from the collection of Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, each engaging with themes related to nature and humanity. More specifically, the selected works explore artistic perspectives on natural phenomena, ranging from deep beneath the Earth's surface (Ferreira) to cloud-covered mountain peaks (TrojnarSKI, Sailstorfer), and even outer space (Schulzek). These works critically reflect on how our political decisions regarding natural resources have a lasting impact on the planet and its inhabitants. In other words, they address the Anthropocene – the era in which human activity shapes the planet's future.

Ângela Ferreira's series "Untitled (Série Stone Free)" from 2018 (acquired 2024) explores the themes of colonialism and the exploitation of Africa's natural resources, with a particular focus on the world's largest diamond discovery. By referencing figures like Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles II, Ferreira underscores how European wealth has been built on the extraction of African resources, highlighting a colonial legacy that continues to influence global inequalities today. Notably, the diamond in question is now part of the British Crown Jewels, symbolizing the enduring connection between colonial exploitation and European affluence.

In contrast to Ferreira's earth-bound exploration, Mona Schulzek's two works shift focus to outer space. 'Meteorite (47°31'22.8"N 138°00'57.8"E; Fall: 1947)' (2023, acquired 2023) and 'Meteorite (27°37'05.3"S 61°47'17.9"W; Fall: 2000 BC)' (2023, acquired 2023) feature meteorites that have

fallen to Earth, creating a link between the planet's molten core and the infinite expanse of the cosmos. Schulzek's pseudo-scientific approach uses these space rocks, encased in rigid metal structures, to embody the tension between earthly forces and the vast unknown.

Also working with industrial materials, but adopting a lighter aesthetic, Michael Sailstorfer's "Clouds (05)" (2010, acquired 2011) features tires that resemble dark clouds hovering in the sky. The soft appearance of these industrial remnants evokes natural phenomena, connecting Sailstorfer's clouds to Schulzek's extraterrestrial collisions. Both Sailstorfer and Schulzek are recipients of the "junger westen," Germany's oldest art prize, awarded by Kunsthalle Recklinghausen.

Angelika J. TrojnarSKI's collage "Warm Breath IV" (2022, acquired 2022), by contrast, resembles impossible studies of clouds. These layered montages, created from smoke and charred paper, capture the poetic yet ominous beauty of melting polar ice caps and burning forests. In her hands, the environmental devastation of the Anthropocene is transformed into delicate, haunting images, a testament to the tension between beauty and destruction.

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