



10 September - 30 October 2016

Furtherfield presents *Deep Water Web*, a collaboration between artists Steven Ball (London, UK) and John Conomos (Sydney, Australia).

*Deep Water Web* is a poetic essayistic meditation around phenomena straddling contemporary and historical geopolitical contexts of the UK and Australia; a continuous *hyperlandscape*, an environment composed from local manifestations of global ecologies, between points in the northern and southern hemispheres in the UK and Australia, online and in the physical space of Furtherfield Gallery.

The age of global warming and global neoliberal capitalism are figured here as critical rhetorical realms. The Anthropocene is considered the current geological age during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. The effects of privatization, fiscal austerity and deregulation of markets at a global-scale now inscribe themselves on the planet. These phenomena can be described as what Timothy Morton has called hyperobjects, objects

so massively distributed in time and space as to transcend localization. While they are impossible to comprehend at scale, *hyperobjects* exert a profound effect at a local level.

Ball and Conomos work between their remote locations in London and Sydney, connecting across and within that other great contemporary hyperobject, the Internet, itself implicit and integral as a neoliberal ideological conduit, both communicative interface and conceptual space.

London and Sydney are continuously connected across time zones, in the gallery multi-projection real time streaming waterscape moving images, and other *hyperlandscapes*, with separate localized sonic environments and fragmented narrated essayistic reflection, combine to form a complex immersive experience. Online the material is presented via a bespoke interactive browser based web application.

London and Sydney are both situated around large bodies of tidal water in the forms of the River Thames and Sydney Harbour. These bodies of water bear material evidence of the local impact of global warming, such as rising tide levels caused by melting ice caps, leading to flooding, and increasingly

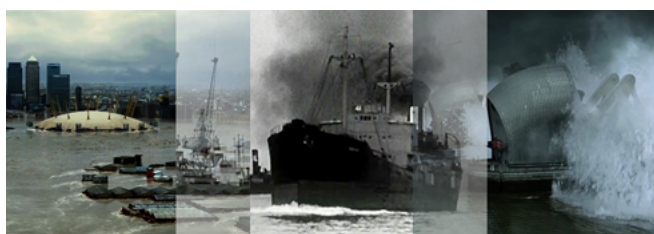


extreme climate fluctuation. Both cities are also global centers of neoliberal capitalism in their own regions. *Deep Water Web* weaves rhetorical explication of postcolonial relationship, elaborating the precarious material forms of climate change, and post-labour late capitalist neoliberal urban developments of waterfronts of former Docklands, considered within the geological and rhetorical ecology of the Anthropocene.



*Deep Water Web* will also become a catalyst for a workshops series at Furtherfield, which will extend its themes through media based excavations.

The artists both have long standing moving image based practices and an interest in landscape and the representation of place. As a hyperlandscape this project suggests that questions of relationship to place, and the construction of landscape, can in the Anthropocene no longer be considered as simply pictorial representation or subjective experience, but is constituted from a range of critical, ethical, ecological, and political positions and concerns.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Steven Ball** is an artist, writer and academic based in London working with audio-visual media engaged with landscape and spatial representation, in local and global, social, political and post-colonial spheres. Since 2003 he has been Research Fellow at Central Saint Martins and was instrumental in developing the British Artists' Film and Video Study Collection.

[www.steven-ball.net](http://www.steven-ball.net)

**John Conomos** is an artist, critic and writer based in Sydney, Australia. His books, essays and artworks are framed within four traditions of contemporary art: Anglo-American and Australian cultural studies, critical theory and post-structuralism. He is a New Media Fellow of the Australia Council for the Arts, and Honorary Professor at Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne.

[www.johnconomos.com](http://www.johnconomos.com)

[deepwaterweb.net](http://deepwaterweb.net)  
[www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)

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## ABOUT FURTHERFIELD

Furtherfield is the UK's leading organisation for arts, technology and social change. Since 1997 Furtherfield has created online and physical spaces and places for people to come together to address critical questions of art and technology on their own terms.

[www.furtherfield.org](http://www.furtherfield.org)

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