

Theses on the Body Politic (The Descent)

Single-channel digital animation, FullHD, 1920 x 1080 pix, 6'00", stereo sound

First exhibited at Turku Art Museum, 19.9.–2.11.2008

The Descent is an autonomous animation, but tightly connected to the animation *Shadows*. It is based on the mental breakdown of one of the protagonists of Pentti Haanpää's novel *Isännät ja isäntien varjot*. If *Shadows* is an objective (but metaphorical) depiction of the larger-than-life processes of capitalism, then *The Descent* shows the effects of those processes on the subject. The animation is a short, vortex-like dive – a descent, a reversed Genesis – into madness, triggered by the forces of capitalism. Though the form is quite hermetic, the story itself is quite archetypal in Finland: a man's (it is always a man) life starts in hardship and misery and ends in delirium, murder and death.

The track *Evidence* is produced by Marko Laine for Mind Records. *The Descent*, *Shadows* and both soundtracks are documented in book form in *Shadows in the Sea of Dee/Evidence of the Descent*, published by Iconoclast Publications and Aivojen yhteistyö.





