

Theses on the Body Politic (Shadows)

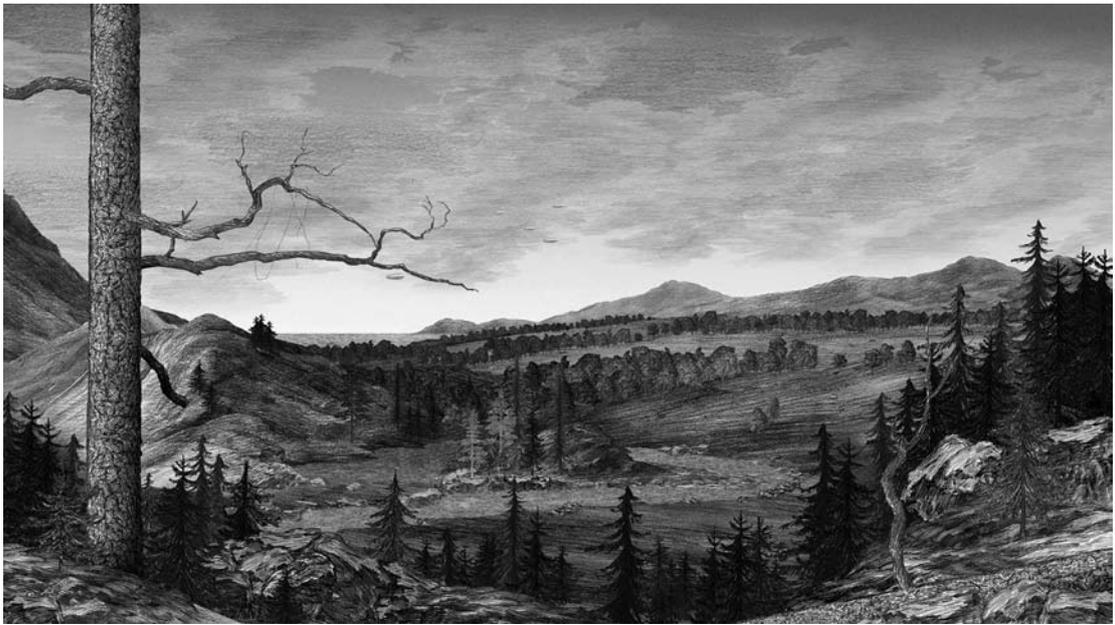
Single-channel digital animation, FullHD, 1920 x 1080 pix, 46'33", stereo sound

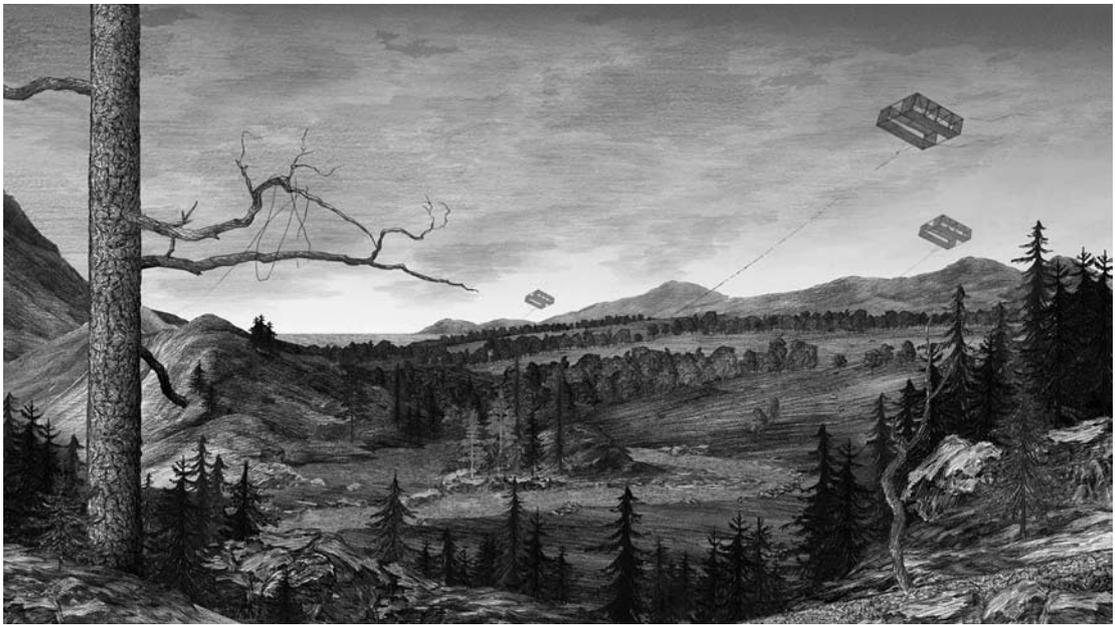
First exhibited at Turku Art Museum, 19.9.–2.11.2008

Shadows is a pencil drawn animation set in a large, romantic landscape. The story is based on the writings of Finnish author Pentti Haanpää, especially the novel *Isännät ja isäntien varjot* (*Lords of the House and Their Shadows*). The novel – and Haanpää's oeuvre in general – deals with the material and psychological effects of global capitalism on the common population. In our interpretation of these texts, originally written during the years of global depression in the 30s, the natural phenomena (shadow and light, clouds, rain, mist, flood, storm, thunder and fire) are juxtaposed with man-made instruments of flight and reconnaissance: airships and kites. The animation is an elegiac depiction of a twilight world where everything centers on the double movement of exploitation and opportunism: there are attempts to exploit the land, attempts to flee the land and – above all – futile attempts to forecast the everchanging weather-conditions so as to be able to adjust one's actions to them.

The musical piece *Sea of Dee* for barytone voice, Finnish concert harp and organ, commissioned by IC-98 and composed by Harri Kerko, serves as a moody soundtrack for the animation. *Shadows, The Descent* 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.







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.

