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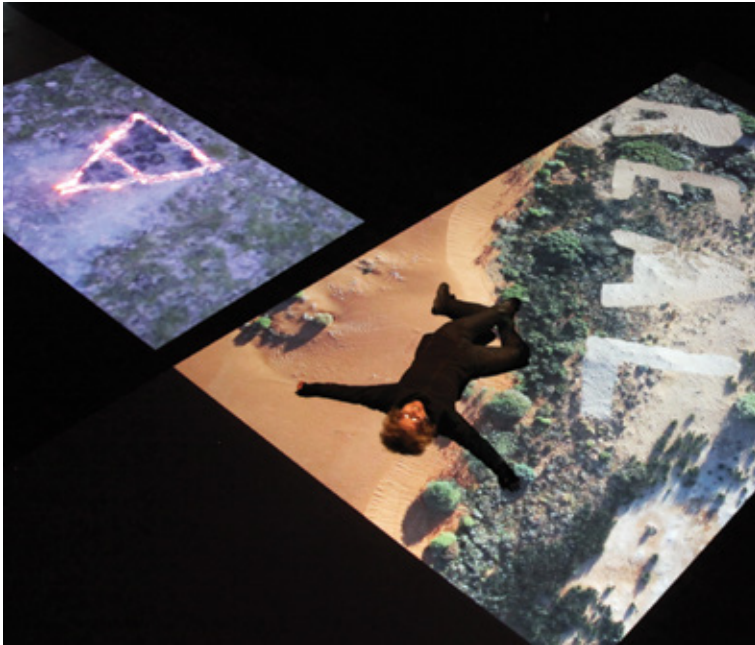
North Melbourne  
Town Hall

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and the earth sighed  
Josephine Starrs  
& Leon Cmielewski

Image: Courtesy of the artists

Arts House



Season 1

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Wed 6 – Sun 10 July 2016

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## Artist's Notes

Our aim is to re-imagine the relationship between nature and culture by presenting aerial views of Australian landscapes and waterways dynamically manipulated in ways that reveal their underlying fragility. The result is an immersive video and sound environment that encourages reflection on our relationship to nature and technology.

We encourage the viewer to ascend stairs to a platform where they can view the large-scale floor projections from above. The camera drifts across degraded landscapes and rolling sand hills, seeking out the fragile interfaces, the edges, between lands lost to the desert and land fending off the relentless encroachment of sand and fire.

The audience can then descend into the floor projections where their bodies are immersed in the moving landscapes, embedded with symbols and text. The intention is to configure the land as active and to imagine it being able to speak and make comment about human impacts upon it. We worked with Alex Davies to create an immersive ambient soundscape that fosters engagement and contemplation about the impact of climate change on natural ecologies.

Josephine Starrs & Leon Cmielewski

## Artistic Credits

Creators:  
**Josephine Starrs &  
Leon Cmielewski**  
Audio Design:  
**Alex Davies**  
Producer:  
**Julianne Pierce**

## Biographies

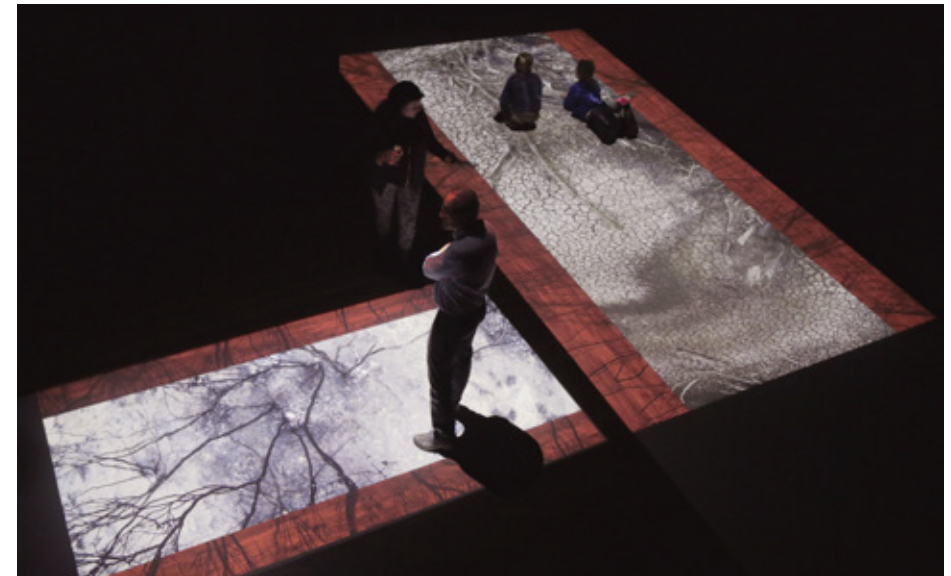
Josephine Starrs and Leon Cmielewski are artists whose long-term collaboration has produced media art installations situated at the juncture of cinema, mapping and sublime landscape.

Their recent project *Dancing with Drones*, with dancer Alison Plevey, explores human responses to drone technologies, recording site specific performances in natural and industrial locations. It was performed at Liveworks, Performance Space in 2015, at Siteworks, Bundanon in 2014 and was shown at the 2015 International Symposium on Electronic Art in Vancouver, Canada.

Their artwork *Incompatible Elements*, focusing on landscapes in crisis due to climate change, has been shown in Australia, USA, Taiwan, Korea, NZ, and in the Maldives Pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale. Their previous work *Seeker*, a four-screen installation focusing on asylum seekers, mapping and diaspora, won an Award of Distinction in Interactive Art at the 2007 Prix Ars Electronica, Austria.

Leon Cmielewski is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University; and Josephine Starrs is Honorary Senior Lecturer at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

Image: Courtesy of the artist



## Thank You

Marko Peljhan; C-Astral Aerospace Slovenia, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia; Mike Manning; Synergy Positioning Systems NZ; Professor Ann Henderson-Sellers; Performance Space; Sydney Creative Practice Lab team at the Io Myers Studio, UNSW; and The Australian Marine Conservation Society for use of Dean Miller footage.

[starrscmielewski.com](http://starrscmielewski.com)

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## Arts House

Arts House is a program of the City of Melbourne and our home is North Melbourne Town Hall. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art providing a nexus for cultural expression and social connection in a city environment.

Arts House develops work that is contemporary, experimental and participatory.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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