

FILAF 2021: Special Jury Prize for the ZKM Publication *Critical Zones: The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth*

The catalog accompanying the ZKM exhibition *Critical Zones: Observatories for Earthly Politics*, edited by Peter Weibel and Bruno Latour, has won the Special Jury Prize at this year's FILAF – Festival International du Livre d'Art et du Film [International Art Books and Films Festival] – held June 21–27, 2021 at Perpignan in the South of France. This is the second major award the catalog has received: last year, the art critics of The New York Times selected the Critical Zones catalog as one of the best art books of 2020.

After the Festival week packed with film screenings, book presentations, and debates, at the award ceremony on 26 June 2021 the exhibition catalog *Critical Zones: The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth* (The MIT Press, 2020) was awarded the Special Jury Prize. Ten international book publications by authors including Hans Ulrich Obrist (Serpentine Galleries, London, U.K.), Mica Gherghescu (Centre Pompidou, Paris, France), and Judith W. Mann (Saint Louis Art Museum, USA) were in the official competition for the Golden FILAF [FILAF d'Or], the Silver FILAF [FILAF d'Argent], and the Special Jury Prize [Prix Spécial du Jury].

Chaired by Jeanne Brun, activist and Director of the future Museum of the National Library of France, the Art Book Jury consisted of the publicist Gérard Berréby, founder and director of Editions Allia, and the artists Mireille Blanc and Stéphane Calais. The award will be accepted by Peter Weibel in person.

"It was with great pleasure that I heard the news that FILAF had distinguished our publication *Critical Zones: The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth* with an award, which honors the fantastic work of everyone involved and particularly that of Bruno Latour. The Special Jury Prize shows once again how fruitful the collaboration of art, science, and technology can be and confirms the arrival of a new science: Critical Zones. My thanks to everyone who contributed to the publication and to the FILAF 2021 jury." – Peter Weibel

The Golden FILAF 2021 in this 11th year of the Festival went to the publication *Eugène Dodeigne: une rétrospective* (1923–2015) by Germain Hirselj. *Kelly Reichardt, l'Amérique retraversée* by Judith Revault d'Allonnes was awarded **the Silver FILAF 2021**.

FILAF – Festival International du Livre d'Art et du Film [International Art Books and Films Festival] – celebrates and awards prizes to the best international art films and art books published or produced during the past year. The Festival is an annual event and is held in the historic center of

Press information

July 2021

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Editors

Peter Weibel und Bruno Latour

Publishing house

MIT Press Cambridge, Massachusetts

FILAF website

www.filaf.com

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Founders of the ZKM



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

Partner of the ZKM



Perpignan, France. For a full week a selection of international books and films is presented at screenings, book presentations, readings, exhibitions, book signings, and personal encounters with authors, artists, and directors. It is open to the general public and admission is free. Two international juries, for art films and art books, respectively, an extensive program in addition to the competition, retrospectives, and tributes are an integral part of FILAF since 2011.

Festival website: www.filaf.com

ANNEX

The award-winning publication:

Critical Zones: The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth

Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel (eds.)

The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2020

This monumental volume in English, which was published in 2020 to accompany the exhibition of the same name at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, depicts the disorientation of living in a world that is facing climate change. It attributes this disorientation to the disconnect between two different definitions of the land upon which modern humans live: the sovereign nation-state from which they derive their rights, and a different hidden land from which they derive their sustenance and riches – the land they live on, the land from which they live. If they chart the land they actually inhabit, they won't find a globe, not the iconic "blue planet," but a series of critical zones – disparate, heterogeneous, discontinuous.

In short texts, longer essays, and with more than 500 illustrations, the volume's contributors explore the new landscape on which it could be possible for humans to land – what it means to be "on Earth," be it the Critical Zone, Gaia, or the land. They examine geopolitical conflicts and look at instruments redesigned for the new "geopolitics of life forms." The "thought exhibition" described in this book throws open a fictive space to explore the new climate regime; how the story will end is not known.

472 pp., ca. 500 illus., 31.5 × 25 cm, hardback, 49.90 Euro

ISBN: 9780262044455

Collaborating partners: Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe (HfG) [Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design], Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT) [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology], Naturkundemuseum Karlsruhe [State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe], Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe [State Art Museum Karlsruhe], Observatoire hydrogéochimique de l'environnement (OHGE) [Hydrologic and geochemical observatory of the environment]

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Project management: Jens Lutz
Graphic design: Donato Ricci, and Tommaso Trojani

The German version of the book appeared in April 2021:

Critical Zones. Die Wissenschaft und Politik des Landens auf der Erde

Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel (eds.)

144 pp., 19.90 Euro

Available from shop.zkm.de and from the ZKM Museum Shop, Karlsruhe.

The New York Times article about their selection of the best art books of 2020:

www.nytimes.com/2020/11/26/arts/design/best-art-books-2020.html

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