

Showcase 1



Understanding the (Mis)Anthropocene

The Anthropocene

Time is categorised by geologists within different epochs, separated by dramatic transformations in global strata formation. Unlike all other geological epochs, the Anthropocene is a geological thought experiment that looks back from a post-apocalypse future into its own past. Accepting that the future disaster is inevitable and mourning the lost future is part of the solastalgia of the Anthropocene.

Recent global environmental changes have caused an irreversible impact on the planet. They suggest that we may have entered a new human-dominated geological epoch, leaving the Holocene and entering the Anthropocene.

The Anthropocene may have started in the 1940s with human produced radioactive isotopes, or could be traced to the domestication of fire, plants and animals, deforestation, expansion of agriculture, capitalism, slavery, imperialism, the industrial revolution, the Great Acceleration, globalisation, anthropogenic global warming, technofossils, and more.

The Misanthropocene

The Misanthropocene announces a geological apocalypse. It can be characterised by rapid human-made irreversible alterations in climate and the global depletion of resources that are likely to cause catastrophic effects for all life on Earth. It is a cautionary tale of its own making, used to make sense of the calamity we find ourselves in. This is the human history of living within the Misanthropocene, on a damaged planet that can no longer sustain human futures.

Should we accept the end of our world, rather than trying to make this one better?

Objects of the

A Time-Travelling Exhibition from the Illegal Museum of Beyond

Misanthropocene

Free Exhibition

Institute of Archaeology &
Slade School of Fine Art

