



FARADAY'S ROCKS, 2023

Video 4,46min

Aerial video shoot by Sorbus Productions

Faraday's Rocks is my attempt to understand the complexity of extractivism and the merciless scanning of Earth for mineral exploration. Mining industry weaves its web into outer space by remote sensing offered by thousands of satellites orbiting our planet at this moment. They offer a comprehensive reading of the surface of the Earth. Remote sensing or earth observation dominates the field of mineral prospecting, exploration and extraction. The properties of an ore-bearing terrain are measured by using electromagnetic waves without physical contact.

I try to hide the glacial erratics on my mother's field in southeast Finland and the electromagnetic radiation they are signaling from the "extractive view." Tracing ore boulders carried by an ancient continental glacier is a special ore prospecting method commonly used today. By tracing the boulders, several ore deposits have been discovered, which have later led to the establishment of a mine on the site. Drawing from the idea of a Faraday cage and electromagnetic shielding, I try to protect these specific boulders. Electrical shielding is a process by which an electromagnetic field is blocked with a barrier that is used to isolate an electrical signal from its surroundings. Space blankets, made out of aluminized Mylar are claimed to block or radically reduce electromagnetic radiation. In the process, I realize that the exposing lens of extractivism has turned on me. I protect my environment in Global North with Mylar blankets whose materials originate far from Finland, extracted from a mine of which I know nothing.

Link to the video <https://www.heininieminen.com/#/faradays-rocks/>



LAW OF GROWTH, 2024

5 laser-cutout law sections on birch plywood 120x240cm, photographed on the future battery and cell factory and their area of influence in Kotka, Finland

The planned battery material and cell factories in Kotka, my home town, and our neighbor town Hamina worry many, both residents, nature conservation agencies and individual forest owners. The construction process includes applications for permits and their justifications, statements and their equivalents. In the background, all this work is governed by laws. The work consists of 5 large-sized plywood signs with sections taken from Finnish law cut into them. The legal articles in question can be found in the environmental permit granted to the Hamina factory. Kotka's factory has not been granted the environmental permit yet even though the forests have already been cut down to make space for the industry.

The law texts are filled with the landscape behind. The signs have been photographed in the future factory area, right in the clearing area and its near surroundings which will be influenced by the new industry. By bringing the law out of the books to the places where the texts apply, I aim to make visible the objects intended by the law – the environment with all it's living lifeforms and non-living elements.

The purpose of the laws regarding the protection and use of our country's environment and various economic activities is to secure, limit and permit various actions. However, there is room for interpretation and mutual contradictions in the laws. One law enables economic growth in Finland, while the other aims to limit the related destruction of nature. Which of these drives ahead? On what basis are conflicts of interest assessed and resolved? Do laws sometimes remain just empty words without real meaning or authority?

YMPÄRISTÖNSUOJELULAKI

1 § Lain tarkoitus

- 1) ehkäistä ympäristön pilaantumista ja sen vaaraa, ehkäistä ja vähentää päästöjä sekä poistaa pilaantumisesta aiheutuvia haittoja ja torjua ympäristövahinkoja;
- 2) turvata terveyttään ja viihtyisää sekä luonnonaloudellisesti kestävä ja monimuotoinen ympäristö, tukea kestävä kehitystä sekä torjua ilmastonmuutosta;
- 3) edistää luonnonvarojen kestävää käyttöä sekä vähentää jätteen määrää ja haitallisuutta ja ehkäistä jätteistä aiheutuvia haitallisia vaikutuksia;
- 4) tehostaa ympäristöön pilaavan toiminnan vaikutusten arviointia ja huomioida ottamista kokonaisuutena; sekä
- 5) parantaa kansalaisten mahdollisuuksia vaikuttaa ympäristöön koskevaan päätöksentekoon.

YMPÄRISTÖNSUOJELULAKI

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BIRD DIARY 2023-2024

I have been pondering for several years about our relationship with other species of beings. I wanted to get to know the birds in my yard and make friends with them. I built a kind of "bird booth" where only my hand comes out, where I offer food to the birds and wait for them to come to me. I filmed these half-hours I spent in the bird booth and wrote down the most relevant aspects of the experience in my bird diary. Through the expectation of interaction, empathy towards birds has grown. The first time a bird, a blue tit, landed on my hand and I got to experience its touch, its weight or weightlessness, that moment was surprisingly significant. In the same way, the arrival of other birds in my hand later brought great joy. I realized that the pleasure comes from the fact that my separation from other species narrowed, even for a few seconds.

With the time I spent in the bird booth, more and more questions arose in my mind about the relationship between humans and non-human animals, interaction and friendship with other species. How do you meet a being that is of a different species than yourself? How to understand them? How to communicate with them? How to listen to them? What language could I speak to them? How could I learn from them and what could I learn? Can empathy towards other species be found through art?

Link to the video 12:44 min, the half-hours of the 56 days of the Bird diary summarized.

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2360653/2756996>

Link to the Bird Diary's diary page. <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2360653/2360654>

The texts in the pages are in Finnish and not public yet.