

PRESS RELEASE

**AVAILABLE NOW:
The Nuclear Culture Source Book, edited by Ele Carpenter**



Robert Williams and Brian McGovern Wilson: *Atomic Priest at Castlerigg*; performance image courtesy the artists

Exactly thirty years after the Chernobyl disaster, five years after the tsunami struck Fukushima and following the announcement that the UK will be opening its first nuclear power station in twenty years, nuclear culture is among the most urgent themes of the present day. **The Nuclear Culture Source Book** – edited by Arts Catalyst’s Associate Curator Ele Carpenter and co-published by Black Dog Publishing, Bildmuseet, Sweden and Arts Catalyst – serves as an exploratory resource that examines the diverse ways in which post-Fukushima society has influenced recent artistic and cultural output.

Drawing on four years of research by Carpenter as part of Arts Catalyst’s Nuclear Culture programme, this unique publication brings together contemporary art practices that investigate the nuclear anthropocene, nuclear sites and materiality and pose important questions surrounding radiological inheritance, nuclear modernity and the philosophical concept of radiation as a hyperobject.

The book features contributions from over 60 contemporary practitioners, including renowned artists **Nina Fischer and Maroan El Sani, Dave Griffiths, Pierre Huyghe, Miyamoto Katsuhiko, Yves Klein, Erika Kobayashi, Eva and Franco Mattes, Uriel Orlow, Trevor Paglen, Susan Schuppli, Taryn Simon, Mika Taanila, Suzanne Treister, Mark Aerial Waller and Jane and Louise Wilson.** Appended by a series of newly commissioned texts by prominent national and international writers including **Peter C. van Wyck, Timothy Morton, Jahnavi Phalkey, Noi Sawaragi, Eiko Honda** and **Victor Gama**, the book also features texts by artist **Susan Schuppli** and Arts Catalyst Director **Nicola Triscott** in addition to **Ele Carpenter's** interviews with members of the UK **Submarine Dismantling Project Advisory Group.**

The publication's release coincides with the exhibition ***Perpetual Uncertainty*** at Sweden's Bildmuseet, Umeå, which runs until 16 April 2017.

'When we think about radiation we think about something invisible. It haunts us psychologically and it haunts us materially because we can't understand it. *The Nuclear Culture Source Book* reflects on the concept of radiation through the medium of artistic outputs so that we might begin to perceive and comprehend it' – **Dr Ele Carpenter**

'Marshall McLuhan said that art was an early warning system in times of technological change. In bringing together nuclear art and critical writings that tell our culture what is happening to it Ele Carpenter's compelling book proves him right' – **John O'Brian**, Professor of Art History, University of British Columbia, and Curator of Camera Atomica, Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada

ALL ARTISTS

James Acord, Shuji Akagi, Lise Autogena and Joshua Portway, Erich Berger, Chim↑Pom, Thomson & Craighead, Nick Crowe and Ian Rawlinson, Gair Dunlop, Emptyset, Marilyn Fairskye, Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani, Victor Gama, Joy Garnett, Giuliano Garonzi, Grand-Guignol Mirai, Dave Griffiths, Annie Grove-White, Helen Grove-White, Isao Hashimoto, Hilda Helström, Cornelia Hesse-Honneger, Hollington and Kyprianou, Martin Howse, Pierre Huyghe, Ai Ikeda, Robert Jacobs and Mick Broderick, Katsuhiko Miyamoto, Yoi Kawakubo, Bridget Kennedy, Yves Klein, Erika Kobayashi, Karen Kramer, Sandra Lahire, Jessica Lloyd-Jones, Veronika Lukasova, David Mabb, Cécile Massart, Eva and Franco Mattes, William Morris, Yoshinori Niwa, Takashi Noguchi, Chris Oakley, Uriel Orlow, Trevor Paglen, Yelena Popova, Monica Ross, Susan Schuppli, Taryn Simon, smudge studio, Isabella Streffen, Shimpei Takeda, Nobuaki Takekawa, Kota Takeuchi, Mika Taanila and Jussi Erola, Robin Tarbet, Suzanne Treister, Alana Tyson, Mark Aerial Waller, Andy Weir, Jane and Louise Wilson, Louise K Wilson, Ken + Julia Yonetani.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

The Nuclear Culture Source Book

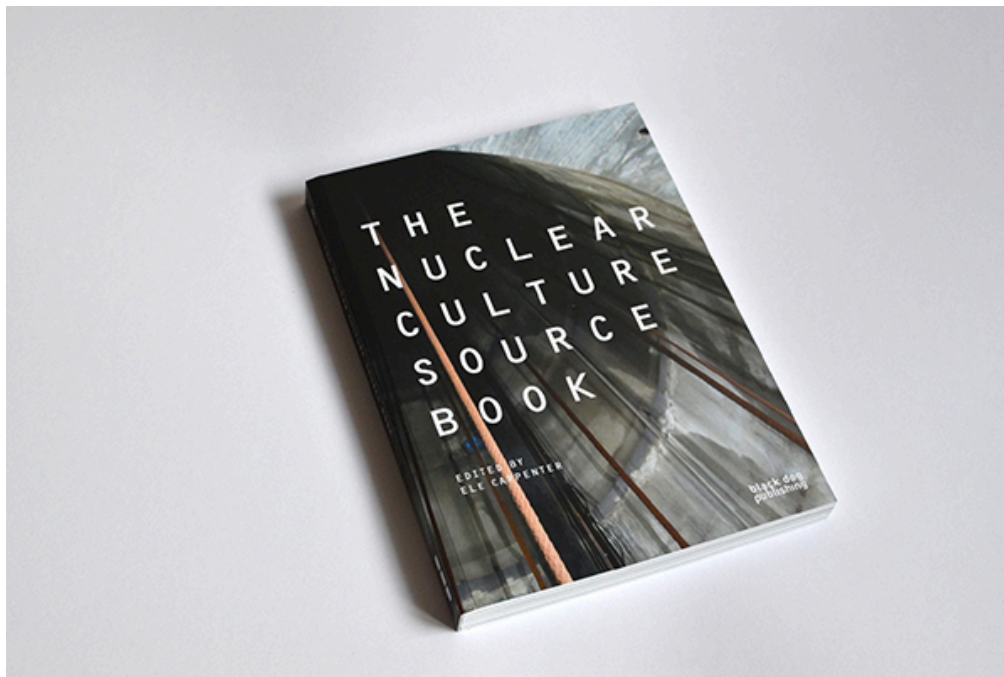
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The Nuclear Culture Source Book; image courtesy Ele Carpenter

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Notes to Editors:

1) **Arts Catalyst** is one of the UK's most distinctive arts organisations, distinguished by ambitious art commissions and its unique take on art-science practice. Funded by Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio organisations, over 22 years, it has commissioned more than 125 UK and international artists' projects, often at pivotal moments in artists' careers, including major projects by Tomás Saraceno, Aleksandra Mir, Agnes Meyer-Brandis, Carey Young, Jan Fabre and the Otolith Group. Arts Catalyst works with artists and scientists to create artworks and generate new ideas exploring science and its role in society and culture: from the nature of air to environmental change, interspecies communication to the future of the moon. It aims to give audiences distinctive, thought-provoking experiences and to play a leading role in the dialogue around interdisciplinary artistic practice through collaborations with world-class galleries, museums, universities, arts organisations, science institutions and research centres.

2) **Dr Ele Carpenter** is a curator, writer and researcher in politicised art and social networks of making. She is curatorial researcher in Nuclear Culture with Arts Catalyst, Senior Lecturer in MFA Curating and convenor of the Nuclear Culture Research Group at Goldsmiths, University of London. The Nuclear Culture Project involves field trips, commissioning new work and curating exhibitions, film screenings and roundtable discussions. The project is commissioning new work in response to the issues raised by dismantling nuclear submarines in consultation with members of the Submarine Dismantling Project Advisory Group, supported by Arts Council England. In 2014 Ele worked with S-AIR in Sapporo to curate the Actinium exhibition, forum and field trips to nuclear sites in Japan. Further information about Ele's nuclear culture work can be found via nuclear.artscatalyst.org.

3) **Bildmuseet** is part of Umeå University, housed in an acclaimed building at the Umeå Arts Campus by the shores of the Umeälven river, close to Umeå Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå Institute of Design, Umeå School of Architecture and Humlab-X. The museum shows contemporary international art, photography, architecture, design and other forms of visual culture, along with art historical retrospectives. Existential, political and philosophical issues are intrinsic to the programme. Exhibitions are complemented by guided tours, lectures, seminars and films as well as workshops and educational activities. Bildmuseet received a Special Commendation from the European Museum of the Year jury 2014, and was one of the top candidates for the Swedish Museum of the Year Award as well as for the Council of Europe Museum Prize.

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