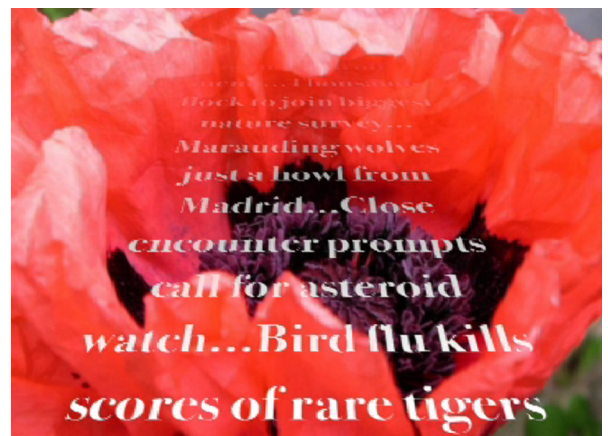


DVD
projection
2006

Ancient Plagues & Modern Conflicts

How Mother Nature gives birth to a monster like Ivan the terrible... You ain't seen nothing yet: after Ivan, brace yourself for the coming of El Niño... Court lets couple keep the twins who have five parents... RSPB points finger at large fisheries decline... Sunburn scares have led to vitamin D deficiency, expert warns... Global warming forces Inuits to abandon swamped homes... Alarm as basking sharks disappear from Scottish coastline... Beavers make a Scottish comeback... Baby-clone clinic comes to Britain... House sparrow seen as endangered species... A baby called Eve and the mystery of a cult that believes in aliens... Conservation effort sparks revival of Britain's rarest orchids... North Sea faces collapse of its ecosystem... Animal research put to the test... Moon's mystery to be solved with lasers and mirrors... Wildlife campaigners drive shark's fin off menu... Thousands flock to join biggest nature survey... Marauding wolves just a howl from Madrid... Close encounter prompts call for asteroid watch... Bird flu kills scores of rare tigers in Thai zoo... Why Antarctica will soon be the only place to live... Work halts at Indian Unilever factory after poisoning alert... Doctors take to the skies to rescue victims of ancient plagues and modern conflicts... Devastation in the wake of foot and mouth... Farms 'were overpaid £700 million' in cull... France set to overtake Britain in new BSE cases... Bushfires strike fear throughout Sydney... Plans to hold back tides of Venice runs into flood of opposition from the Greens... Long decline of Britain's wild birds may be over... Housing project is rejected so toads can keep breeding... Scientists decipher third human chromosome... £8bn 'suntowers' to channel energy from space... There are no clouds up there in space to cut off the power supply... With the hounds and the horn in the morning... The 'crown jewels' of nature - but they are locked away... Bank gives \$50m green gift to the globe... Scientists name 10 most threatened coral reefs...
Soon this hillside will start to vanish under Europe's biggest reservoir... More wet winters to come, scientists say... Cornish chuffed at the return of the chough... Broad-minded lioness adopts second antelope... Marine litter threatens future of sea turtles... Attack on nuclear plant



'could kill 3.5m'... Doubts over safety of quail eggs... Locust plagues poised to hit southern cities... Politicians and landowners unite to block the beaver's return to the wilds of Scotland... GM crops bound to 'escape', says EU... The fall and rise of the

m. rosenegren 2006
12:28 DV loop

DVD projection 2006



TITLE: Ancient Plagues and Modern Conflicts
(Silk Worms Rampage)
MEDIUM/FORM: DV loop projection 12:28, 2006
ORIGIN: Images researched UK & Australia
2002-2006; Text sources various English lan-
guage broadsheet and tabloid newspapers
published both hemispheres 2002-2004.
EXHIBITED: Albury Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2006; "Tactics of Fear-Creativity as Catharsis",
Long Gallery, University of Wollongong NSW
3-28 September 2007

In *Ancient Plagues and Modern Conflicts* - the superficial and the sublime converge, 1200 words of ubiquitous news headlines unravel silently and recede into the backdrop of nature.

Twelve minutes of unsettling silence accentuates the mesmerizing effect of the rolling blockbuster Star Wars style script. Tantalizing momentary, glimpses of nature are offered and then swallowed and obscured again by the text. Between the text and image a visual and cognitive tension develops. The aesthetic of nature is over written with a loss of confidence in human nature.

The narrative of apocalyptic headlines conflates global issues concerned with natural and manmade phenomena, geopolitics, technology, and science. The contemporary town crier's announcements and declarations range from the preposterous and alarmist, to sagacious and judicious. Presentation mimics the unrelenting printing presses as they simultaneously churn out these contradictions. Absurd, dire, alarmist warnings of *Rampaging silkworms; Monster crabs on the march... Attack on nuclear plant... combine with exuberant heralding ...breakthrough in the treatment of cancer, ..proof of solar systems like ours, and the power of living cells.*

An inconclusive narrative, it reflects the unrelenting pervasiveness, and conflicting positions of media saturated existence. Anxiety and confusion are implicit, and with the visual and textual contradictions embody the subject of *Ancient Plagues and Modern Conflicts* - the simplistic rhetoric of fear. In the context of the exhibition "Tactics of Fear-Catharsis in Art", this is a trait shared with the abstract phrase *war on terror*.

-Rosengren, M. "Ancient Plagues and Modern Conflicts". *Tactics against Fear - Creativity as Catharsis*. Comp. and Ed. Krishnabhakdi-Vasilakis, F. Wollongong NSW: University of Wollongong, 2007. 9.