



### Real Remnants of Fictive Wars (2004)

CYPRLEN GAILLARD

*Real Remnants of Fictive Wars* (2003-2008) is a series of ephemeral actions, related to *Land Art* and documented on video and photography. Gaillard puts in operation industrial extinguishers in carefully selected spaces, among which is the iconic Spiral Jetty by Robert Smithson.

## Superflex & Patrick Charpenel

### Conversation

Today, humans live enclosed in a political and economic system that hasn't been able to ensure neither stability nor welfare. Today, we operate in a structure that generates differences and conflicts within our various communities. Currently we foster an economy that compromises natural resources in exchange for strengthening the wealth of the fortunate few. For that reason, we have now created a system that promotes discontinuity, contradiction and nonlinearity in the way we operate. The etymology of the word catastrophe comes from the Greek katastréphein, meaning to overturn, which is composed of the prefix kata meaning downwards and of the verb fein that refers to the idea of turning. Thus, the literal meaning of this notion is to put things upside down. Today, as we all know, in Mexico we live upside down, in reverse, backwards. We live in a state of nearly absolute catastrophe. Contemporary art, with its ability to introduce new variables into the linguistic and social platforms of this great global structure, can and must change the material and symbolic order of our world. This explains the tendency for art, especially contemporary, to generate political experiences at Biennials and international exhibitions.

Today, with the presence of the Danish collective, Superflex, we face a unique case. This is a group of activists who generate different social experiences from an art platform. For this reason, I would like to talk to them about their work and their political stance.

Before I begin the conversation with two members of this collective, I would like to briefly explain how this presentation will be carried out. First, I will ask them questions. This will lead the way towards a dialogue. Afterwards, this dialog will be open to the audience and we will close with the presentation of a video entitled *The Financial Crisis*. It is essential for the content of this presentation that we conclude with this video. So we will have to limit the audience's questions to 3 or 4. Unfortunately, time does not allow us to extend ourselves for too long. Now I will switch languages to hold a fluent dialogue with Bjornstjerne and Jakob.

**Patrick Charpenel:** Thank you for being here with us at this symposium, and for visiting us here in Mexico. I know that it has been a long trip for you.

**Bjornstjerne Christiansen & Jakob Fenger:** On the contrary, thank you for your invitation.