

Monolith is a series of audio-visual installations and live concerts created by Werner Dafeldecker and Lawrence English. The work is based on an extensive field trip to the Antarctica Peninsula under the auspice of the Argentine Antarctic Division. In February 2010, the artists were invited by the Argentinean Antarctic Chancellery to visit two locations on the Antarctic Peninsula and create a work that responds to the social, historical and geographic qualities of this region. During that month, the artists meticulously documented various aspects of activity (and inactivity) in areas surrounding Argentina's Marambio and Esperanza bases. From the sounds of human habitation and the bubbling life of immense penguin colonies through to thunderous glacial cracks and curious hydrophonic environments, the sound and visual materials collected tell the story of a divergent and unexpectedly complex environment in which macro and micro views revealed vastly different qualities of any given space and time. Utilising a wide range of analogue and digital technologies, the artists surveyed atmospheric, hydrophonic and ionospheric environments. Each of these layers (water, land and sky) revealed an almost limitless array of sound and visual phenomena. Water environments, with their dense atmospheres allow sound to travel great distances. This occurrence reveals a world invisible to human eyes and ears – a submerged eco-system of turbulent currents and cracking icebergs, a place where echo-location of Orcas, sound out the physicality of Weddell seals swimming – a surging sea of hunting and play. On land, the endless variations – from unfamiliar wildlife through to intense environmental blizzards, glacial cracks and tiny clicks of melting ice – offered a wealth of audio visual documents, which reflected Antarctica as a volatile and unsettled

environment. One hour may present a calm sunny day with 360-degree visibility, the next an intense wall of snow and ice can blow in covering all in its wake with layers of blinding white and howling wind.

Atmospherically Antarctica too demonstrates many unusual characteristics – intense light and dark, peculiar electro-magnetic signals, radio emissions and other polar phenomena.