

Eduardo Terrazas (MX, 1936)

*Exponential Growth*, 2014

Video 3:12 min.

*Parteaguas (Turning Point)*, 1975-2013

Digitalprint

Eduardo Terrazas er en mexicansk kunstner, designer, arkitekt og byplanlægger. I 1975 blev han inviteret til et møde mellem den mexicanske præsident Luis Echeverría og tænketanken Club of Rome, hvis rapport *Grænser for Vækst* fra 1972 alarmerende havde konkluderet, at ubæredygtig vækst kunne blive menneskehedens endeligt. Til lejligheden blev Terrazas bedt om at lave en udstilling. I en ledsagende publikation *Solidarity for Peace and Development Codex* præsenterede Terrazas en grafisk og visuel bearbejdning af rapporten. I en serie på 16 billeder fremstillede han ubæredygtig eksponentiel vækst som et hvidt kvadrat, der over 16 fordoblinger af en sort streg ender i et sort kvadrat.

I dag taler forskere og entreprenører så som amerikaneren Raymond Kurzweil om, at eksponentiel vækst inden for kunstig intelligens snart vil medføre, at maskinerne bliver mere vidende end menneskene. Ved hjælp af statistisk materiale har Kurzweil forudset, at vi vil nå dette punkt, også kaldet *The Singularity*, i 2046. Hvad der sker derefter, tvivler han på, at man kan forudsige, da denne udvikling givetvis er styret af en anden intelligens og logik end menneskets af i dag. Ligesom i Terrazas' illustration kan vi regne os frem til et fremtidigt scenarie, hvorefter linjer forsvinder i rent mørke. I 2012 forvandlede Terrazas sin grafiske gengivelse af det eksponentielle vækstscenarie til en videoinstallation, der nu præsenteres i større format på Kunsthall Charlottenborg.

I en anden sal i udstillingen præsenteres et bearbejdet fotografi betitlet *Parteaguas (Turning Point)* fra samme publikation fra 1975 af Terrazas. Billedet er fra 1946, taget ved koraløerne Bikini-atollen i Stillehavet, og repræsenterer det amerikanske militærs test af en atombombe, der ved eksplosion igangsætter en eksponentielt stigende kædereaktion af kernespaltninger. I det 21. århundrede har geologer diskuteret, hvorvidt atombombesprængningerne under 2. Verdenskrig kan hævdes at markere en ny geologisk epoke kaldet antropocæn, hvor mennesket manifesterer sig som en planetforandrende kraft. De fleste geologiske epoker i jordens historie strækker sig over flere millioner år.

Eduardo Terrazas (MX, 1936)

*Exponential Growth*, 2014

Video 3:12 min.

*Parteaguas (Turning Point)*, 1975-1946

Digital print

Eduardo Terrazas is a Mexican artist, designer, architect and urban planner. In 1975 he was invited to take part in a meeting between the Mexican president, Luis Echeverría, and the think tank Club of Rome, whose 1972 report *The Limits to Growth* had alarmingly concluded that unsustainable growth could spell the end of humanity. Terrazas was asked to create an exhibition to mark the occasion. In a publication accompanying his exhibition, *Solidarity for Peace and Development Codex*, Terrazas presented a graphic and visual processing of the report. In a series of sixteen pictures he depicted unsustainable exponential growth as a white square that is, through sixteen doublings of a black line, eventually transformed into a black square.

Today, scientists, scholars and entrepreneurs such as the American Raymond Kurzweil suggest that exponential growth within the field of artificial intelligence will soon make machines more knowledgeable than mankind. Based on statistics Kurzweil predicts that we will reach this point, known as *The Singularity*, in 2046. He doubts that anyone can predict what happens afterwards, as further developments will presumably be governed by a different kind of intelligence and logic than the human versions we know today. As in Terrazas's illustration we can only calculate our way to a future scenario where lines disappear in darkness. In 2012 Terrazas transformed his depiction of the exponential growth scenario into a video installation. An enlarged version of that installation is now presented at Kunsthall Charlottenborg.

A different room in the exhibition presents Terrazas's edited photograph *Parteaguas (Turning Point)* taken from the same publication from 1975. The picture itself dates from 1946 and was taken on the Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. It shows the American military testing a nuclear bomb, which explodes to initiate an exponentially growing chain reaction of nucleus fission. Here in the twenty-first century geologists have discussed whether the nuclear explosions during World War II can be said to mark the beginning of a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, in which mankind manifests itself as a planet-changing force. Most geological epochs in the history of Earth span several million years.