



# Anubumin

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A film by Zanny Begg & Oliver Ressler

18 min., HD, AT 2017

In their fourth collaborative film Zanny Begg (Sydney) and Oliver Ressler (Vienna) focus on Nauru, a tiny remote island in the Pacific with 10,000 inhabitants. The title "Anubumin" is Nauruan for "night" and symbolises a certain darkness that surrounds the island.



"Anubumin", still

The film combines a poetic narration written for the film with conversations carried out with whistleblowers in Australia. The narration discusses different voids that have shaped the island's past and future.

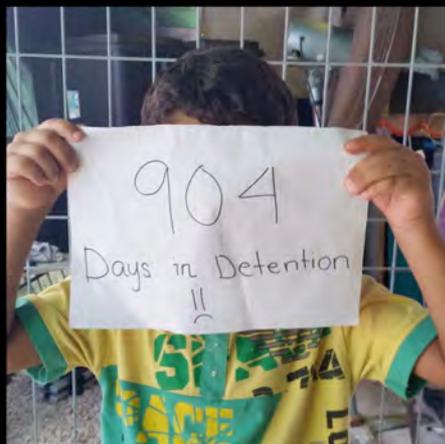
The largest void is a physical one, the island is a raised reef consisting of calcite and phosphate on a volcanic base, which since 1906 has been mined and exported to Australia, to fertilise the former colonisers' farms. When phosphate extraction came to a stop in the 1980s, Nauru was bankrupt and 80 percent of the land area uninhabitable and infertile. In an attempt to generate income, in the 1990s Nauru became a prime money-laundering haven. After the disappearance of soil and money, today Nauru involves in the "disappearance of people" – housing one of Australia's offshore refugee detention centres.



"Anubumin", still



"Anubumin", still

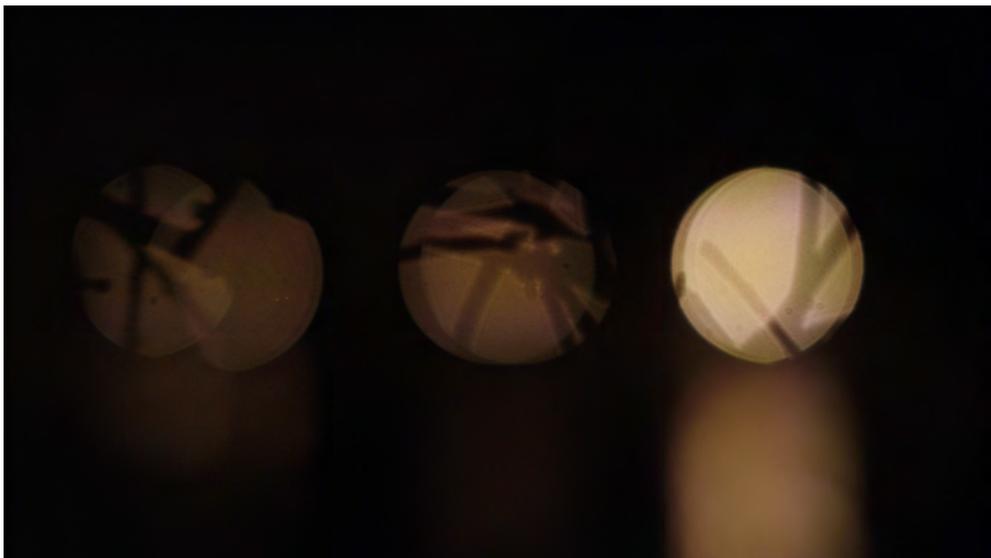


"Anubumin", still



"Anubumin", still

In a reaction to the criticism on terrible human right situation in the detention centre, Nauru severely restricted access to the island. Four whistleblowers, who worked as doctors and nurses in the detention centre, describe the institutionalised human rights violations in the offshore detention. They uncover a truth the Australian government tries to cover through intimidating people into silence.



"Anubumin", still

Today a new void threatens the island, rising sea-levels threaten the coastal edge, which is the only area left for its inhabitants to live. The people who warden the political and economic refugees of today may well become climate refugees of tomorrow. The night is always darkest before the dawn.



"Anubumin". Installation view: "Refracted Realities", Videonale 17, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, 2019



"Anubumin". Installation view: "Lost in Europe: in the wake of Britain's inner emigration", Open Space, Vienna, 2018

Whistleblowers: David Isaacs, Mark Isaacs, Anonymous, Alanna Maycock, Hasantha Gunasekera

Footage shot on Nauru by anonymous whistleblowers

Camera by William Robertson

Sound design by James Brown

Poem by Matthew Hyland & Oliver Ressler

Narrated by Renée Gadsden

Thanks to Gabby Sutherland

Audio recording poem, colour correction by Rudolf Gottsberger

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