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We wonder whether art can ever answer the questions of our time. We conclude sometimes, rather simplistically, that this means that it is nothing but an echo chamber of capitalist triumphalism. We become disillusioned. We think about fashion, fads, pretentious discourse, we grapple with reading the signs of the times. We long for a time when the signs seemed fewer and clearer.
– Khwezi Gule

PROJECT01

The island of Martinique in the eastern Caribbean is home to several extinct and one active volcano, Mount Pelée. The Trinity Session produced the experimental video and performance *Smoke Projections: St Pierre* on the island in 2011



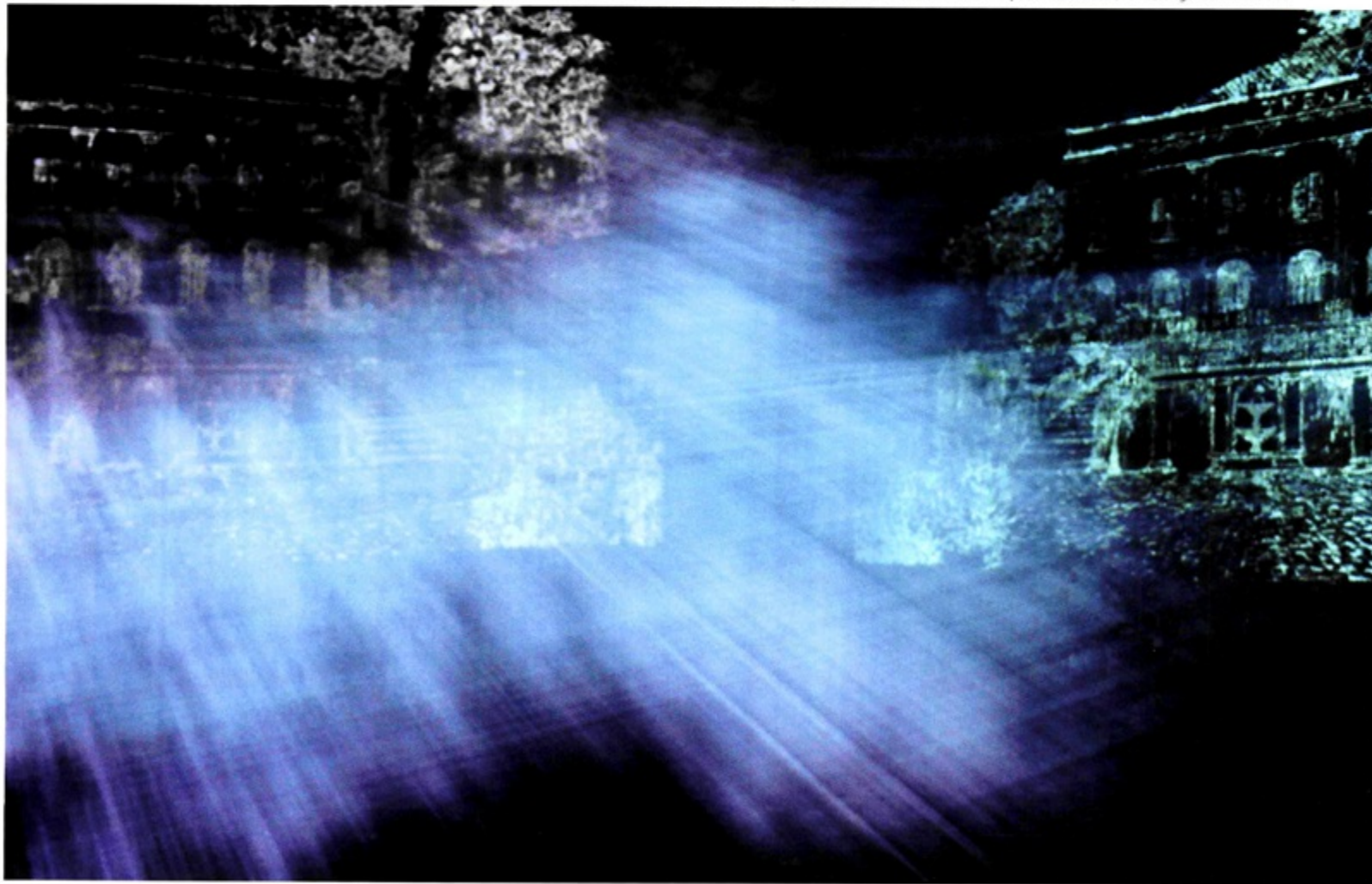
6 April 2011, ruined site of the former Théâtre de St Pierre.

The small town of St Pierre on the west coast of Martinique bears the ever-present history of the devastation of the town following major eruptions of Mount Pelée in the early 1900s. The intermingling of ghost structures and building ruins with the contemporary town is a constant reminder of the tenuous relationship between the thrusts of modernity and the forces of nature.

The town continues to populate itself in the path of future pyroclastic flows. Indeed the seismic observatory high in the mountains and in clear view of Mount Pelée can issue evacuation warnings a year in advance of an eruption. Thus the contradiction of life and death is in constant balance, an enticing premise for the reflection or projection of alternative readings of the built environment and its “natural” counterpart.

Stephen Hobbs and Marcus Neustetter of The Trinity Session created a temporary situation at the ruined site of the former theatre. Drawings of the town as it was before the eruption of 1903 were projected onto clouds of smoke rising from the foundations of the stage floor.

FACING PAGE Ruins of the Théâtre de St Pierre, site for The Trinity Session's video and performance, 2011 **BELOW** The Trinity Session, video still from *Smoke Projections: St Pierre*, 2011, single-channel video



ALL BELOW The Trinity Session, video still from *Smoke Projections: St Pierre*, 2011, single-channel video

FACING PAGE TOP 4 IMAGES The Trinity Session, video still from *Smoke Projections: St Pierre*, 2011, single-channel video

FACING PAGE BOTTOM Théâtre de St Pierre, smoke residue from The Trinity Session's video and performance, 2011



