



Gill Gatfield, *Zealandia* 2018

Zealandia – Re-writing Vitruvian Man

Andrea Lombardo

Very often the nature that surrounds us goes unseen. We walk absent-mindedly past trees, flowers, branches shaken by the wind, and rocks that protrude from the mountains above our cities. Even the water of a river or a waterfall can become invisible to our minds, troubled by our myriad daily activities. Even so, when we do manage to stop and appreciate nature, the sight of a forest, a field in bloom or the snow covered valleys restores our soul more than anything else.

New Zealand artist Gill Gatfield often works with special and rare natural materials, creating contemplative works that exploit abstract geometrical shapes and lines. Her works are characterised by a dry aesthetic that feeds on human experience.

Gill Gatfield's sculpture *Zealandia*, located in Venice, is a large X realised from a rare stone from New Zealand's mountains, a slap to our lack of attention towards nature, which we exploit in an uncontrollable and unrestrained fashion. The X-shape calls upon the crucifixion, a punishment inflicted on those named as subversives. Here, the subversives are those who forget the natural course of the biological life of the planet, those who try to harness, with poor results, the force of nature. Subversives are those who, with industrial alchemy, try to disrupt the natural rhythm of mankind.

The work, on view at the Marinaressa Gardens, brings together the perfect proportions of the Vitruvian man and the discovery of Zealandia as the eight continent, the search for perfection and scientific research, the ideals of the Renaissance and the movement of the

continents. It bonds the strength and resilience of rock with the fragility of human life, which might otherwise disappear, submerged by the waters of neglect.



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