

# Plastiglomerate. Equal to a photograph, Modernity's reservoir.

As sculptor, you're on the lookout for an interesting, the new stone, to make a sculpture. Similar to Carrara marble is the pattern of Plastiglomerate, the stone marker of the Anthropocene: when you skilfully cut the dark rock in two, it shows a smooth surface and a marbled change of colour. Depending on the diverse compositions of mainly lava rock onshore, and plastic conglomerates offshore, this new type of material now counts to the approved types of rock. To some extent, holes in the compact mass form air pockets, similar to those in porous stone. And like fossils, you can find traces in this rock: the time from the outset of industrialisation and the products of this economic system are consolidated in this novel rock material.

As reminiscence to the time-bound origins in Modernity, one could make a series of sculptures with Plastiglomerate. Engraved and driven in the reservoir of memory, like a photograph from a journey – a documentation that tells of how this material can be mined and quarried. It's fairly likely that the time for this has not yet come, that the resources are still too small, mining along the shorelines is fruitless, that the global collapse caused by system of the *risk society* has not progressed far enough. The demand for this new rock cuts both ways. Forty years after the Club of Rome published its report *The Limits to Growth*, the whole globalised world is working on establishing this condition. The more informed a society is, the higher its carbon emissions.

Images of a world that soon will no longer exist as now could be engraved in this stone, this hard and resistant material. The rock develops under high pressure: that of greenhouse gases, Kyoto targets, pollution, food production. There's a good chance that the work can soon begin, that pictures can be engraved in Plastiglomerate: images of an impressed and *blazing world*, a world that carefully packages its actions; wraps them that one can cross continents on large tankers; continents that anyway, and as a result thereupon, and parallel to this will soon be extended and replaced with what is given back to nature: continents in form of plastic material, still loose and not yet so firmly composed as the new Plastiglomerate. Like carbon in relation to black coal, like coal in relation to a diamond. *Die Kohle schafft uns alles an*: Coal buys us anything. Cash tells us to do everything. Like photographs work as reservoir, the images in the new rock remain there as memory of a bygone nature.

Possibly, the new stone still needs to mature. Thus, to be able to make sculptures with it, one needs patience, maybe as much patience and time as it took before the Industrial Revolution to transport the valuable stone from Carrara; when the motto was not yet: Time is money, but: Good things take time to ripen.