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Permanent Disposal of Nuclear Waste

Korniyenko, Nika

For some people, nuclear energy seems to be the perfect solution for an inexpensive, carbon dioxide-free source of energy. However, it would only be inexpensive if worn down nuclear power reactors are used, which comes with great security risks, and when the costs of disposing nuclear waste, currently at the expense of the tax payers, are not taken into account. This radioactive waste will continue to give off dangerous radiation for millions of years, affecting future generations. Given that the large-scale testing of the atomic bomb in 1950 has left radioactive elements that could send strong, traceable chemical signals into our atmosphere for millennia, the start of the Anthropocene could be set to coincide with the start of the nuclear age.



Barrel for radioactive waste, Inv.-Nr.: 1983-428
Nika Korniyenko

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Permanent disposal of nuclear waste
Text and images by Nika Korniyenko
University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin



Radioactive waste 2014

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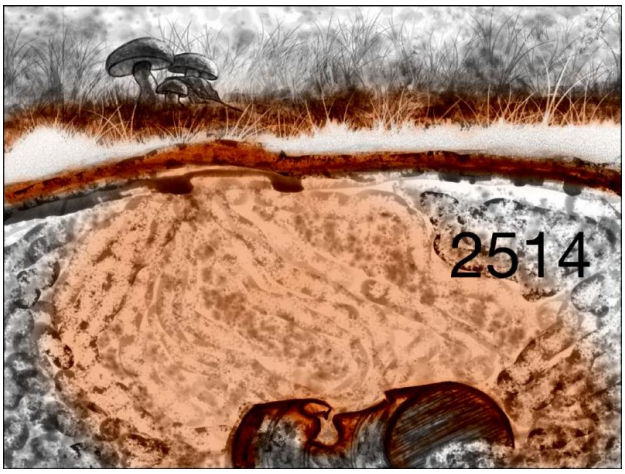

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Artist's comment:

It is no longer possible to ignore the environmental impact of human activity on our planet. I am especially concerned about radioactive waste since despite its surreal and unimaginable consequences, greed has encouraged skepticism and called scientific research into doubt. My story is shown through the eyes of mankind's innocent co-inhabitants on Earth.

How to cite

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The comic also appears in Alexandra Hamann, Reinhold Leinfelder, Helmuth Trischler, and Henning Wagenbreth, eds., *Anthropozän – 30 Meilensteine auf dem Weg in ein neues Erdzeitalter. Eine Comic-Anthologie* (Munich: Deutsches Museum, 2014).

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Further readings:

- Sources and Literature for the Anthropocene Milestone Comics

Related links:

- Welcome to the Anthropocene. The Earth in Our Hands. Special exhibition at the Deutsches Museum http://www.deutsches-museum.de/en/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/archive/2015/anthropocene/
- Welcome to the Anthropocene. The Earth in Our Hands. Virtual exhibition on the Environment & Society Portal https://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/6354
- Comic-Anthology, Deutsches Museum Website http://www.deutsches-museum.de/sammlungen/entdecken/comics/

Websites linked in image captions:

- http://www.deutsches-museum.de/information/schule-und-museum/begleitmaterial/energierouten/kernenergie/objekte/#c57069