

“We must not become slaves to our own axioms”  
(Ursula K. LeGuin)

Kyriaki Goni creates a new video piece that tells the story of the Earth and Mars, from their creation, all the way up to the future. By speaking from the perspective of the stones that the planets both share, she is drawing attention to the different lenses through which the understanding of the world is built. These have the capacity to enforce or weaken the already known and established narrations by shifting our point of reference. Therefore, the centre of the work revolves around the power created by human-made definitions. What happens when we look through the stones, though? Is it possible to leave the human perspective, attributed meanings, and access new world orders?

The prologue concerns deep-past, the exchange of matter between the two planets, and the information that can be drawn out of its particles. While the next two chapters show the past and present through the human expansion on the Earth, the future's narration is focused on the fourth planet (Mars). No matter whether this is due to the growing human population, the exploitation of the earth's resources, or the catastrophic vision of the consequences of the climate crisis, it exposes the belief that one species is superior to all the others. Goni underlines - the colonial strategy follows colonial terminology. And it has not changed, it just concerns further aspects of life and is reaching out to more than one planet.

Even though the narration here is carefully plotted in the subtitles form, no word is uttered throughout the whole work. The stones hum and buzz like telegraphs, they sing the songs of the spears, which is calming and disturbing at the same time. Their communication is outside of the alphabet and human norms. Once we dare to leave the anthropocentric perspective, there are many more layers to this reality to discover and unfold. Physical manifestations have histories and riddles hidden inside of them, secret keys to the shift of the power dynamics. Everything is interdependent and intertwined.

The video “Around the same Sun (listen to the stones)” orbits around the star of our solar system that is present at the centre of the frame and never goes out of sight. It is like an indicator that directs us but, also, leaves us blind.