

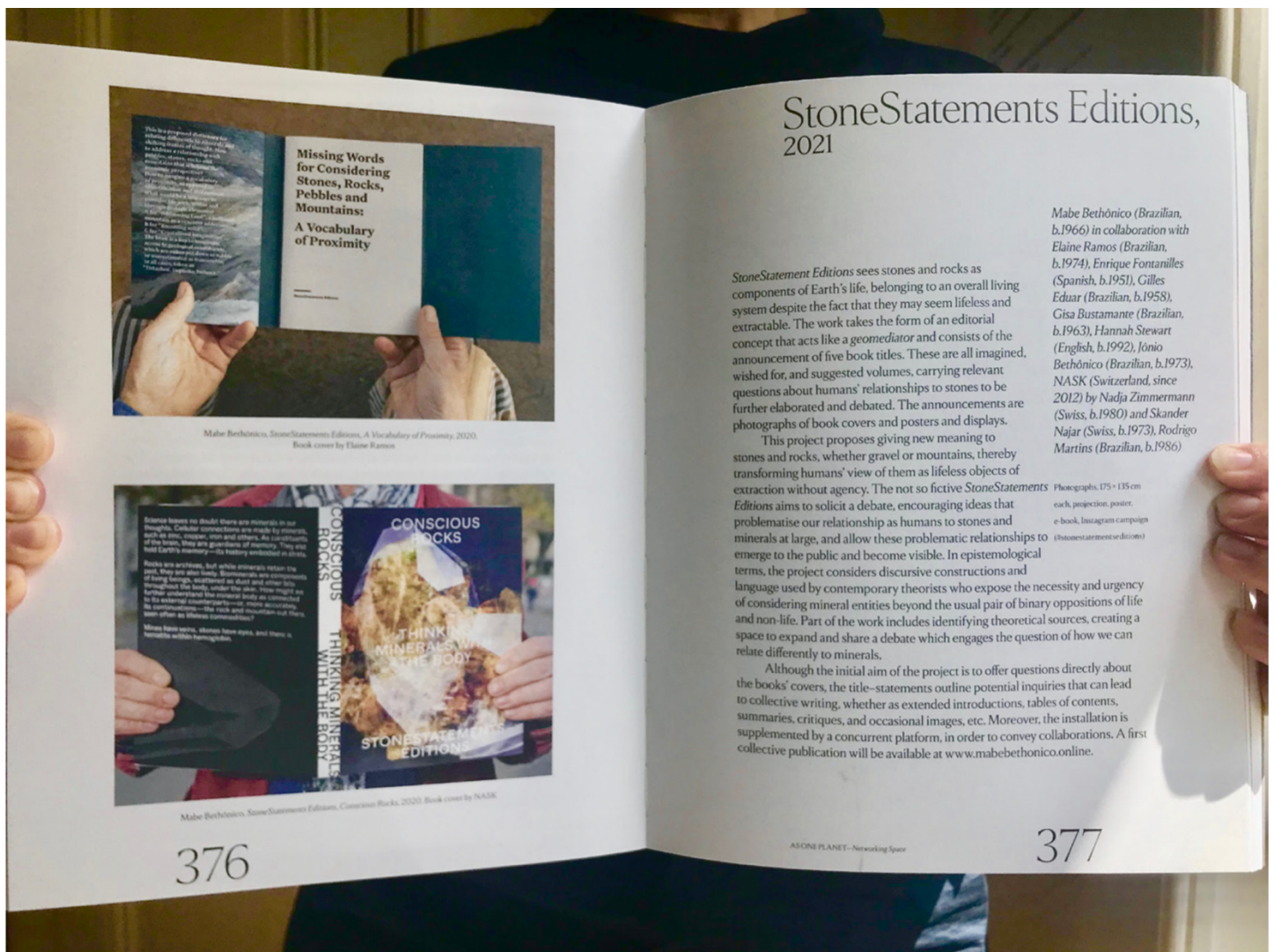
BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2021

La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

How
do we
come
together?

EXHIBITION



In Western cultures, stones and rocks are usually seen as inanimate or lifeless, static although potentially emanating particular energies, permanent and endlessly available, long lasting or eternal, complex and beautiful, but especially useful, economically interesting and viable. Read as signs of fertility and prosperity, linked to power as much as poverty, to human development and misery, stones and rocks are taken as extractable elements at large and available simply for use. Dispersed as dust, fragmented as pebbles, united, solidified, pressed, compacted and overlapped as relief [or strata], dug, excavated or piled up: in multiple mineral combinations, definitions, chemistry, aspects, properties... How can we speak really, of the not-so-secret life of stones?

StoneStatement Editions departs from the interrogation of how to see stones and rocks as components of Earth's life, belonging to an overall living system, despite the fact that they may seem "lifeless" and extractable. The work takes the form or the gesture of an editorial concept that acts like a "geomediator" and it is launched with the announcement of five book titles. These are all imagined, wished for, and suggested, to be developed, carrying relevant questions to be further elaborated and debated about humans' relationships to stones. The announcements are photographs of book covers-posters-manifests.

We propose a "re-signification" of stones and rocks – be they in form of gravel, mountains, or even less monumental landmarks – transforming the way they are seen as lifeless objects of extraction without agency. Therefore, the not so fictive "StoneStatements Editions" really aims to solicit a debate, encouraging ideas which problematize our relationship to stones and minerals at large, and allow these problematic relationships to emerge to the public and become visible. In epistemological terms, we wish to consider discursive constructions and language used by contemporary theorists who expose the necessity and urgency of considering mineral entities beyond the usual pair of binary oppositions of life and non-life. Part of the work includes identifying theoretical sources, creating a space to expand and share a debate which engages the question of how can we relate differently to minerals?

Although the initial aim of the project is to propose questions directly on the books' covers, the title-statements will outline potential inquiries that can lead to collective writing - be it in the form of an extended introduction, tables of contents, summaries, a critique and some images, etc. Moreover, a joint platform is envisaged, in order to convey collaborations. A first collective publication is available at www.mabebethonico.online.