



IC-98
House of Khronos 2016-

to act towards a better future, that can't be a bad thing. While there are advocates for *Longplayer* becoming autonomous, my position is that it should only play on if people want it to do so. I am drawn to the idea of people taking responsibility and passing that on to, and for, future generations, and my hope has always been that that will engender a broader sense of how we consider, and care, for the future.'

Projects intended to endure also need protecting. In Finland, *House of Khronos* is a conceptual environmental artwork by the artist duo IC-98 (Visa Suonpää & Patrik Söderlund). Consisting of a property surrounded by a gateless chainlink fence, it is a space where nature is allowed to take over without human influence. The artists describe this as 'a property where time itself dwells'. They describe the work thus: 'A property was bought, the grounds with its flora and fauna were

documented, and a fence was built around the perimeter ... After this, people are forbidden to interact with the house and garden in any way. We are only allowed to observe the decay of the house as nature takes over during centuries passing by. The property will be preserved and protected with all legislative means to ensure its detachment from society, the first step being an application for the status of a nature reserve. Theoretically, the final state will be terra nullius, a status of no-man's land.'

John Latham specialised in this sort of thinking in his Flat Time Theory. It entails a fundamental rethinking of the time base of the human presence on Earth, one that may indeed need to be rethought when faced with imminent extinction. Artists and thinkers are still unravelling Latham's thinking, difficult to

understand when he was alive and speaking but perhaps clearer in print. Flat Time proposes what Latham assigned in this text as 'things', 'spaces' and 'times', which can all be considered 'events' while being precisely distinguished from one another in terms of their 'Time Base' – ie the actual elemental components which comprise a galaxy, a star, a geological era, a tree, a human being, a plant, a gnat or an elementary particle – because all of the components are there before and after it exists as an apparent 'thing'. But the duration of the components' 'clustering' in that precise recipe to which we give something a name has what Flat Time refers to as a definite Time Base. Latham has constructed a vast Land Art work from slag heaps that will continue long after the 'Time Base' of humans has finished – the *Niddrie Woman* in Scotland. Flat Time Theory could be a useful tool in understanding how to deal with the climate emergency.

Neal White of the one-man Office of Experiments has been continuing the work of Latham and recently conducted a book-burning, authorised by the estate of the late artist, at the Portikus Gallery in Frankfurt, which also showed the controversial *God Is Great*, in which holy books including the Koran were displayed (Censorship AM292). At the same time, White has been continuing a long-term residency with the Centre for Land Use Interpretation, specifically studying the effects of climate change on