

Biosphere

Hydrosphere

Placemaking

Wildfire

terlife
atie Paterson

Wildfire

Place & Climate

Cryosphere

Amulets are miniature objects, typically carved in stone. They have been crafted over millennia carrying cultural and cosmic significance across civilisations. The Latin root of the word amulet, *amoliri*, means ‘to drive away, to protect’, and these small, talismanic objects, small enough to be hand-held, are often considered protective.

Afterlife reimagines this tradition. Nearly two hundred ancient amulets from across time and all corners of the globe have been sourced from museums and collections worldwide, representing Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Viking, Islamic, Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Celtic, Greco-Roman and Pre-Columbian traditions, amongst others. For *Afterlife*, these small, intricate amulets have been recreated from materials sourced from endangered landscapes and fragile ecosystems to serve as a bridge between past and present, drawing on centuries of cultural and spiritual traditions while reflecting the fragility of the natural world today.

The materials used to recreate the amulets reflect the pressing environmental issues of our time. Rocks from glacial terrains left bare by retreating ice; coral remnants from the Great Barrier Reef; stones from islands facing rising sea levels; and other materials from devastated or threatened ecosystems are transformed into tiny objects of reflection, connection, prayer and renewal. Each chosen material carries a story of environmental fragility, symbolising urgent issues such as biodiversity loss, deforestation and the impact of climate change.

Afterlife explores themes of deep time, geology and the environment, prompting audiences to consider legacies left for future generations. The project serves as a memorial to species and ecosystems at risk of extinction, intertwining ancient traditions with contemporary environmental concerns. By blending historical ritual with urgent ecological themes, *Afterlife* becomes both a tribute and a call to action, urging us to protect the delicate balance of life on Earth.

This catalogue lists and reproduces each amulet at actual size, dating and locating it where possible. This information is followed by the contemporary material with which it has been remade by the artist. The amulets are grouped into thematic zones: Biosphere, Hydrosphere, Cryosphere, Place and Climate, Wildfire, Anthropocene, Extraction, Mining, War and Pollution.

Amulets

Jay Griffiths

The skin is where you meet the world. The skin is where you are caressed or scarred. Skin sings when it is stroked and howls when it is stabbed. Your skin may be soothed with honey or bruised with blows.

Amulets — charms to heal harms — are worn at the skin. They speak to the thin skin of each of us, vulnerable to scythe and scissors as our psyches are thin-skinned to scathing words and cutting remarks. Our skin tells stories of how easily we are injured by a misstep or infected by a microbe.

The Earth's skin is so thin that if this planet were an apple, all the layer of life we know, containing all creatures, the soil and seas, every language and art and every kind of love, would be no thicker than appleskin.

Individually, we are (mostly) kind. We know a kinship of skin with the great and troubled Earth. Collectively, though, we become cruel, acting as if Earthskin were thick and tough and beyond our power to injure. These amulets quietly and seriously refute that lie.

Katie Paterson's amulets hold close to the injured Earthskin. The baby albatross who swallowed plastic is hand-held, a mountain flayed for a mine is softly stroked, an island about to be drowned by oblique intent is cupped in a shell, and the first glacier declared dead in Iceland is remembered in miniature.

As 'issues' these things feel gigantic, while their distance fosters unkindness: out of reach, out of sight, out of mind. These hand-made amulets, though, whisper (they don't shout), and we lean in to listen so closely they brush our skin. Intimacy collapses distance and the unthinkable becomes graspable.

These amulets ask the mothering Earth, the *mater* of us all, 'what's the matter?' The answer is the harrowing of the only heaven we know. And then, with the very materials of harm, these amulets make an immaterial benediction. The medicine of amulets is porous to prayer. They are spells to dispel disease, wishes that work to turn illness to wellness, talismans that protect and shield.

Amulets may be given to the dead body going into the afterlife. Many such amulets are birds, representing guides to souls in the afterlife. The *after* life. A time after your life may be sad to contemplate but it is incomprehensible to consider the afterlife of Life: the animals being driven to extinction by modernity's reign of terror.

Animals have been acknowledged as our healers from earliest times, and the medicine of the animals has so far vouchsafed humanity's time on Earth. Countless amulets invoke animals for help and Katie Paterson's amulets contain the condensed medicine of butterfly, bat, bee and beetle; of swan, peacock, eagle and owl; of whale, catfish, rat and snake; of horse, hare, sow and bear.

But now there is a necessary reversal. Now, these creatures that have for so long healed us need real protection. Their lives, their homes, their medicine and their meaning need shielding and benevolence aforethought. When the world is wounded as it is, amulets must be made to watch over the animals, to make safe their earths and waters: amulets as tough as tiny Martello towers set to protect their surroundings.

Some of these amulets are barely three millimetres by three millimetres. The word 'amulet' sounds small as the suffix *-let* suggests littleness: piglet, turtlet and wrenlet whose smallness evokes protectiveness in us. And yet these amulets suggest the vast, they conjure the Earth, Everest-high to Mariana Trench-low. They speak of a plurality of cultures and tell of eternities in all directions.

Amulets can work in inverse proportion to their size, as their smallness invests them with greater potency. Medicine works like this: the more concentrated it is, the stronger the remedy. This is crucible-work, boiling something down to an elixir or quintessence.

Art works like this too, a distillation of energy focusing on a detail so small its message strikes lightning. A baby's bootie on a beach, speaking of the drowned toddler who needed a safe shore. A burned doll with ashen holes for eyes, blinded witness to the genocide of children.

The role of an amulet is alchemical and transforming. Art, too, is an alchemy to alter the viewer, to touch them, emotionally. As an artist, Katie Paterson is bearing witness to harms and creating amulets of empathy, each one telling of obliterated beauty.

We cannot touch or wear these amulets, but we can go one better. We can become them. We can turn into healing animals. Each of us is tiny, a little dot, an iota of one 'I' alone but like an amulet we could be aware of our condensed strength as remedy. Be an amulet — a force for the Earth — holding skin-close to what hurts us all, protecting all that lives.

Biosphere



1

Amulet of Sapta Matrikas, the Seven Sisters (India)

Fallen fragments from endangered trees including Cuban cycad, Chilean plum yew, Klinki pine, Sicilian fir, West Himalayan yew and Tasmanian Huon pine.



2

Amulet of a Bird (Sasanian culture, c. 250–550 CE)

Palm oil from Sago forests, a major contributor to deforestation and habitat destruction, the legacy of which is visible from space.



4

Amulet of Bat, a pre-dynastic Cow Goddess (Ancient Egypt)

Vegetation from the depleting Congo Basin rainforests, one of the most important wilderness areas left on Earth, a mosaic of rivers, forests and savannas home to around 10,000 species of tropical plants and endangered wildlife including forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas.



3

Amulet of a Hindu Goddess (India)

The remains of Monarch butterflies and the milkweed plants they depend on, symbolising a collapsing ecosystem as current global warming pushes us out of the climate envelope into hotter, unknown territory, with the Monarch among countless species being driven towards extinction.



5
Netsuke of an Owl (Japan, c. 1615–1868 CE)

Bark from threatened mangrove forests, which are amongst some of the planet's most important ecosystems, now facing destruction from rising seas and human encroachment.



6
Amulet of a Bee (Thailand)

Fertiliser, 'elixirs of death', marking the rise of mass industrial pesticide use which has decimated pollinator populations, degraded soil health and accelerated the collapse of once-resilient ecosystems.¹



7
Amulet of a Ram's Head, Snake Head, Frog and Papyrus (Ancient Egypt)

Bee pollen, a sign of Colony Collapse Disorder, which describes the sudden abandonment of hives by worker bees, part of a wider 'insect armageddon' that has seen flying insect populations fall by three-quarters in under 30 years.



8
Amulet of Two Animals (Ancient Mesopotamia)

Vegetation from the Taiga biome, representing ecological tipping points that are being crossed, disrupting Earth's thermal balance on a planetary scale.



9
Amulet of a Coati (Chorotegan culture, Mesoamerica, c. 800–1350 CE)

Peat from vanishing wetlands, ecosystems that have accumulated over millennia, creating once stable carbon reservoirs accounting for around 50% of terrestrial carbon storage which are now releasing vast amounts of greenhouse gases.



10
Amulet of a Leaf (Ancient Egypt, c. 1352–1336 BCE)

Australian eucalyptus seeds, reflecting the destruction of koala habitats, as koalas, the only surviving member of the *Phascolarctidae* family, are entirely dependent on Australian eucalyptus forests, 80% of which have been felled since European settlement.



11
Amulet of Hathor, Goddess of the Sky (Ancient Egypt, c. 3000 BCE)

Greenery from rainforests that are being rapidly cleared, giving way to sprawling agricultural wastelands.



12
Amulet of a Leaf (Ancient Egypt, c. 1352–1336 BCE)

Amber from Indonesian forests, landscapes at risk of vanishing within our lifetimes.



13 14
Amulets of Two Scarab Beetles, representing protection and transformation (Ancient Egypt)

The shell of a snail from French Polynesia, *Partula suturalis*, an 'Endling' species that was the last known survivor of its kind, now extinct.



15
Amulet of a Bird (Etruscan culture, c. 800–300 BCE)

Seeds from the 1,000 orchids of Madagascar, a zoological wonderland at risk, marking the beginning of a new 'sixth extinction' as species are being wiped out at a rate unequalled by the previous five mass extinctions, which unfolded over hundreds of millions of years.



16
Amulet of a Female Figurine, a Square, a Lion, and a Goat (Anatolian culture, c. 2250–1920 BCE)

Sawdust from deforested old-growth forests, invoking biomes that have evolved over millennia now lost.



17
Amulet of a Foot, representing safety and guidance (Temple of Ishtar, Kingdom of Mari, eastern Syria, ancient Mesopotamia, c. 2500–2340 BCE)

Ayahuasca vine from the Amazon Rainforest, one of the great cradles of Earth's biodiversity, now on the brink of collapse and at risk of disappearance within our lifetimes.



18
Amulet of a Ba-bird, a symbol of the soul (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Foliage from endangered trees including Maidenhair Tree, Wollemi Pine, Monkey Puzzle Tree, Wood's Cycad, Japanese Umbrella Pine and Baishanzu Fir.



19
Amulet of a Headrest, signifying protection during sleep (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–30 BCE)

Twigs from 'zombie forests', where trees stand dead yet upright, relics of ecosystems facing climate conditions that are not survivable.



20
Amulet of Mut's Head on a Column, Queen of the Heavens (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Tree shavings from giant redwoods, ancient forests falling to industrial clearing.

Hydrosphere



21

Amulet of a Ram's Head (Koban culture, ancient Caucasus region, c. 600 BCE)

Vegetation from endangered kelp forests, which form the foundation of marine ecosystems by absorbing pollution, sequestering planet-warming gases and supporting a stunning biodiversity of life, yet in some regions 95% of giant kelp forests have already been lost.



22

Amulet of a Djed Pillar with Shroud and Arms, Wearing the Atef Crown and Holding a Flagellum and Heqa Sceptre (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Black shale from Oceanic Anoxic Events, ancient periods when oxygen-starved oceans triggered mass extinctions; a geological echo of the environmental crises unfolding today.



23

Amulet of a Fish (Ancient Egypt)

Red dye from fish attractants, marking the rapid decline of North Pacific salmon as disrupted migration routes, climate change and pollution drive ecological imbalance and threaten Indigenous ways of life.



24

Amulet of Ptah, God of Creation (Ancient Egypt)

Water from the Atlantic, where ocean currents are now at their weakest in over a millennium due to the decline of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), signalling a potential collapse that could profoundly disrupt climate systems, marine ecosystems and the rainfall that billions depend on for food.



25

Amulet of an Ankh Cross, 'The Breath of Life' (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Sediments from marine dead zones, regions of the ocean so depleted of oxygen that animal life can no longer survive.



26 27
Lock Amulet / Zoomorphic Duck Amulet (Viking culture, c. 793–1066 CE / Norse Pagan culture, c. 1300 CE)

Anti-fouling paint containing tributyltin (TBT), a toxin driving the decline of many species, including the sea otter.



28
Amulet of Taweret with a Double Head, Protector of Mothers and Children (Ancient Egypt, c. 1390–1213 BCE)

A piece of coralline alga, a potential survivor amid today's coral reef crisis, drawn from hyper-diverse yet fragile biological oases that serve as sentinels for the wider biosphere on which all life depends.



29
Amulet of a Quadruple Wedjat Eye, a symbol of restored wholeness (Ancient Egypt, c. 1069–332 BCE)

Fish powder from the increasingly fishless oceans, where populations of large fish have plummeted by about 90% in many regions worldwide.



30 31 32
Amulets of Three Conch Shells (India, 20th century CE)

Fragments of Japanese bleached coral branches from Okinawa, signifying tropical coral reef die-off through mass bleaching events, which, if no significant action is taken, could lead to the loss of 90% of remaining coral reefs by 2050 as rising sea temperatures and acidification strip reefs of life and colour.



33
Amulet of a Heart Scarab (Ancient Egypt, c. 1295–1186 BCE)

Biocide-inducing chemicals which are agents of microbial destruction.



34
Amulet of the Deity Heh, God of Infinity, Holding Signs for Millions of Years (Ancient Egypt, c. 1300–950 BCE)

Salts from the dying Aral Sea, Kazakhstan, where diverted rivers turned a thriving lake into a toxic desert in one of the most staggering disasters of the twentieth century.



35

Amulet of Two Harpocrates Figures, Gods of Silence and Secrecy (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Silt from the Baltic Sea, now an oceanic desert starved of oxygen by fertiliser-driven plankton blooms causing decay which suffocates marine life across some 250,000 square kilometres each year.



36

Amulet of a Whale Tail (Inuit culture, Greenland, 20th century CE)

The fossilised skeletons of zooplankton, microscopic archives of past oceans, now threatened by acidifying seas and the unravelling of the marine food web.



37

Amulet of an Ear, a symbol of listening (Ancient Egypt, c. 2500–1500 BCE)

A ground-up whaling harpoon, signalling the plight of the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale, whose songs fade with each passing year, with only 356 individuals remaining, one of many species devastated by the industrial slaughter of 3 million whales in the 20th century.



38

Amulet of Isis and Horus, Goddess of Magic and Healing, and God of the Sky (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

The strands of 'ghost nets', discarded fishing nets that drift through the oceans for many years.



39

Amulet of Two Swans (Thailand, 20th century CE)

Coral from the Great Barrier Reef, a fragile reef environment threatened by changing ocean chemistry, described as a 'zombie ecosystem' which is teetering on the brink of mass extinction, with most of the coral around the world already wiped out and the survivors unable to withstand further warming.

Cryosphere



40

Amulet of a Couchant Lion, signifying strength and courage (Ancient Egypt, c. 2900–2700 BCE)

Stones from Fox Glacier in New Zealand, once vast, now receding with every warming season.



41

Hamsa Amulet (Islamic culture, 20th century CE)

Meltwater from an Antarctic ice core, reflecting the nearly 5 trillion tonnes of ice lost from the continent over the past three decades.



42

Menat Amulet (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Stones from fast-thawing Alaska, where the ice caps are receding at extraordinary rates, triggering landslides so intense that they register on the Richter scale.



43

Amulet of Khepri, a Winged Scarab Beetle, associated with rebirth (Ancient Egypt)

Cryoconite and black soot from Greenland's 'Dark Zone', carbon-rich debris from wildfires and fossil fuels that darken the surface of its ice, reducing reflectivity and accelerating melt.



44
Ankh Amulet, symbolising life and the eternal cycle of birth and death (Ancient Egypt, c. 900–1100 CE)

Detritus from Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland, once a powerful and expansive glacier, now fading and leaving behind a rapidly transforming landscape.



45
Amulet of a Ram (Ancient Egypt, c. 2925–2775 BCE)

Moraine from Okjökull, the first glacier in Iceland to be officially declared dead.



46
Amulet of an Open Left Hand, a symbol of protection and receptivity (Ancient Egypt, c. 2181 BCE)

Sediments from the melting glacier Hofsjökull in Iceland, layers of matter laid down over millennia, now unearthed as ancient ice recedes into memory.



47
Amulet of a Djed Pillar, conveying eternal life (Ancient Egypt, c. 1400 BCE)

Silt from the thawing glacier Sólheimajökull in Iceland, reflecting a cryosphere under threat as global warming pushes ice systems toward 'tipping points', critical thresholds that if exceeded, pose some of the gravest threats faced by humanity.



48
Amulet of a Wedjat Eye, representing divine sight and restoration (Ancient Egypt)

Traces from the disintegrating Greenlandic ice sheet, expressing the rapid transformation of the cryosphere, the loss of which threatens freshwater stores, carbon balance, global climate regulation and the stability of major ecosystems.



49
Amulet of a Dog-faced Baboon (Ancient Egypt, c. 600 BCE)

Glacial debris from Morteratsch, Switzerland, which bear witness to unprecedented retreat as Alpine ice vanishes at record rates amidst warnings that, by the end of the century, snow may only remain there above 10,000 feet.



50
Amulet of a Bull (Temple of Ishtar, Ancient Kingdom of Mari, ancient Mesopotamia, c. 2500–2340 BCE)

Glacial remains from Fjallsárlón in Iceland, a lake forming as the 2.5-million-year-old glacier Vatnajökull shrinks in response to rising temperatures.



51
Amulet of a Human Form (Teotihuacan culture, Mesoamerica, c. 200 BCE – 750 CE)

The deposits of melting glaciers from Jökulsárlón lagoon in Iceland, which reflect a global pattern of retreating ice as glaciers vanish from nearly every continent on Earth.



52
Amulet of a Standing Bull (Sumerian culture, c. 3000 BCE)

Remnants from Glacier National Park in Montana, where only 26 of 150 glaciers remain, reflecting a future in which the loss of all glaciers in the contiguous United States is considered inevitable within decades.



53
Amulet of Two Fingers, signifying unity (Ancient Egypt)

Fragments of the Hindu Kush Himalaya Glacier, situated within the ‘Third Pole’, reflecting a future where its highest peaks could lose up to 80% of their ice volume by the end of the century with profound consequences for more than 2 billion people in Asia who depend on it.



54
Amulet of Maat, Goddess of Cosmic Order (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–30 BCE)

Glacial clasts from Longyearbreen in Svalbard, exposed by retreating ice, marking an Arctic landscape undergoing record-breaking melt seasons and warming seven times faster than the global average.



55
Amulet of a Lion (Ancient Egypt)

Remnants of the melting Lyell Glacier in Yosemite, USA, now no longer active and largely lost.



56 57
Amulets of Two Hearts (Ancient Egypt, c. 600 BCE)

Permafrost from the Great Siberian Thaw, a place once frozen for millennia, now releasing vast amounts of methane and carbon dioxide, potent greenhouse gases long trapped in the ice.



58
Amulet of a Face (Sasanian culture, c. 2000 BCE)

Erratics from the Gorner Glacier in Switzerland, rocks transported by glacial movement and witnesses to a changing climate.



59
The Eyrarland Statue amulet, a symbol of Norse strength (Iceland, c. 1000 CE)

Glacial dust from Greenland, acknowledging that the ice there now shrinks at the astonishing rate of nearly a million tonnes per minute.

Place & Climate



60
Amulet of a Falcon-headed God (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–525 BCE)

Salts from the Rann of Kutch, a vast salt desert in India increasingly affected by heatwaves and drought.



61
Bullae Amulet (Ancient Rome, c. 753 BCE – 476 CE)

Sri Lankan soils, describing coastal landscapes vulnerable to sea-level rise where entire communities face the threat of displacement.



62
Amulet of Ganesh, Lord of Beginnings and Remover of Obstacles (Thailand, 20th century CE)

Sands from the Horn of Africa, emblematic of global desertification, representing a widespread environmental crisis in which fertile land turns to desert.



63
Amulet of a Double Crocodile, representing duality and the two realms (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–343 BCE)

Ground-up shells from Vanuatu, South Pacific, one of the world's island nations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) variations.



64
Amulet of Wepwawet, 'The Opener of Ways' (Ancient Egypt, c. 3500–2900 BCE)

A crushed-up rudist bivalve, which thrived as sea temperatures rose too high for corals in the Late Cretaceous (approximately 100 to 66 million years ago), an ancient analogue for today's global warming.



65
Amulet of Coyolxauhqui, Goddess of the Moon
(Aztec culture, Mesoamerica, c. 1300–1521 CE)

Material from ancient shorelines shaped by rising seas, offering deep-time analogues for the climate-driven transformations unfolding today.



66
Amulet of Thoth, God of Wisdom and Writing (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

A rock sample marking the ‘Great Dying’, the most catastrophic extinction event in Earth’s history, when over 90% of marine species and 70% of terrestrial life were wiped out, an alarming harbinger for today’s global heating crisis.



67
Amulet of an Altar, conveying divine presence
(Archaic Greek, Kamiros Acropolis, Rhodes, Dodecanese, c. 800–480 BCE)

Crushed paving stones from Shanghai, China, a sinking megacity which is gradually subsiding under the pressures of overdevelopment, groundwater extraction and the immense weight of rapid urban expansion.



68
Amulet of an Elephant’s Head (Ancient Egypt, c. 5000–3100 BCE)

Clay and greensand from Folkestone, UK, which is an area vulnerable to future landslides.



69
Amulet of Zeus’ Thunderbolt (Ancient Rome)

Sands from Miami, USA, often described as a submerged city of tomorrow in the era of rising seas.



70
Amulet of a Nile Goose Head, conveying life-giving abundance (Ancient Egypt)

The remnants of tsunamis, lands that have been torn apart by sudden, devastating surges of the sea.



71
Isis Knot Amulet, a symbol of protection (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–380 BCE)

Caribbean sands, gathered from one of the world's regions most vulnerable to climate change, where rising seas, stronger storms and coral loss threaten communities and ecosystems alike.



72
Amulet of Carahu Swallowing the Moon (Thailand, 20th century CE)

A coconut shell from a monoculture plantation, where once-pristine lands home to mangroves, rainforests and coral reefs have been cleared leading to the loss of habitat for countless species.



73
Amulet of a Deer (Nepal)

Material from Mauritius, an island nation increasingly vulnerable to intense cyclones, abnormal tidal surges, prolonged droughts and flash floods.



74
Amulet of a Pillar Surmounted by a Bird (Maghreb, North Africa)

Sand from the Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands, all deeply vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, whose fate hangs in the balance as rising sea levels, coral bleaching and extreme weather threaten to reshape both the land and the lives that depend on it.



75
Amulet of Khonsu, Traveller and God of the Moon (Ancient Egypt, c. 1069–332 BCE)

Residue from Venice, Italy, which is a sinking city threatened by rising sea levels and land subsidence, likely to become one of the world's drowned cities; a deeply felt human catastrophe in the making.



76
Amulet of a Cat and Kittens, the lioness protector of the home (Ancient Egypt)

Sands from the 'ground zero' of climate change, Oceania's South Pacific islands including the Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands, Tahiti and Easter Island, nations home to millions of people, where hundreds of languages are spoken across thousands of islands, all especially vulnerable to rising seas.



77
Amulet of a Butterfly, signifying transformation
(Ancient Egypt, c. 1981–1640 BCE)

Sun-bleached sand from the Maldives, submerged islands of the future at risk of being underwater in just three decades.



78
Amulet of a Hare, evoking vitality and regeneration
(Ancient Egypt, c. 1550–1077 BCE)

Fragments of seashells from Tuamotu, French Polynesia, one of Oceania's most vulnerable regions facing the imminent threat of submersion and climate-driven displacement.



79
Amulet of a Panther, representing ferocity, courage and stealth (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Trace elements from regions in India that endure monsoons, extreme heat, floods and sandstorms, which disproportionately harm low-income communities.



80
Udjat Amulet, a symbol of eternal vision (Ancient Egypt, c. 332–30 BCE)

Materials from the hurricane belt, spanning the Bahamas to Haiti, regions vulnerable to frequent and devastating storms.



81
Amulet of a Duck (Ancient Mesopotamia, c. 3000 BCE)

Beach debris collected from across Indonesia's 17,000 islands, landscapes increasingly ravaged by extreme weather and the devastating impacts of climate change.



82
Amulet of the Head of a Bird (Ancient Egypt, c. 3900–3600 BCE)

Stones from the drying Narmada in Madhya Pradesh, India, a river that holds profound spiritual significance in Hinduism, with its survival now threatened by six major dams, sand mining, pollution and deforestation.



83

Amulet of the Radiant Solar Disk on the Horizon, a sign of divine light (Ancient Egypt, c. 332–30 BCE)

Sands from Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, New Zealand and Samoa, regions where the climate emergency poses the single greatest threat to the livelihoods of those living in low-lying, vulnerable island nations.



84

Plaque Amulet of the Osirian Triad, representing resurrection (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Stones from Pakistan, a climate hotspot in ‘the era of global boiling’, a stark reminder of a world reshaped by scorching temperatures.²



85

Amulet of a Goat's Head (Bactrian, Ancient Iran, c. 2300–1700 BCE)

Sands from Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti and other regions that are grappling with extreme drought and famine.



86

Amulet of a Zoomorphic Rabbit, signifying vitality (Tholos do Escoural, Herdade da Sala Cave, Portugal, 3rd millennium BCE)

Ground-up shells from the Philippines, where islands are enduring deforestation, coastal degradation, overfishing and the impacts of climate change.



87

Amulet of a Papyrus Sceptre (Ancient Egypt, c. 600–300 BCE)

Material from the Florida Everglades, USA, a region facing severe habitat loss and environmental degradation, where farmers use hundreds of thousands of tonnes of fertiliser annually, much of which leaches into the water, triggering algal blooms and releasing harmful toxins.



88

Amulet of a Horizon (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Sands from islands experiencing marine heatwaves, which cause coral organisms to bleach, often irreparably, echoing a crisis 55 million years ago when reefs effectively collapsed, taking several million years to recover.



89
Amulet of a Crescent Moon (Indigenous Americas)
Beach debris from the coastal regions of Java and Sumatra, Indonesia, accumulating as sea levels rise and coastal ecosystems erode.



90
Amulet of a Peacock's Tail, an expression of the soul's brilliance (Balkan culture, Late Bronze Age, c. 1250 BCE)
Sediment from the Hawaiian Islands, USA, landscapes increasingly shaped by extreme weather, atmospheric rivers, biodiversity loss, rising sea levels, and coastal erosion.



91
Amulet of Re-Harakhty the Sun god, and Horus of the Horizon (Ancient Egypt, c. 525–30 BCE)
Ground-up shingle from the archipelago of Fiji, islands suffering from increasing cyclones, rising sea levels, coral bleaching and extreme weather events.



92
Amulet of an Offering Table, a symbol of sustenance and sacrifice (Ancient Egypt)
Sands from regions worldwide suffering mega-droughts, including Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Utah, USA, where record high temperatures and water scarcity are reshaping landscapes and lives.

Wildfire



93 94 95 96

Lunar Amulet / Amulet of a Bear Claw / Zoomorphic Amulet / Lunar Amulet (Viking culture, c. 1100–1500 CE)

Embers from Californian wildfires, USA, traces of the devastating blazes that ravage landscapes, forests, and communities.



97

Amulet of a Stylized Star (Islamic culture, Swat Valley, Pakistan)

Ash from European wildfires, the scorched remnants of once-thriving landscapes, now symbolising the increasing frequency of devastating fires across the continent.



98

Amulet of a Bird (Japan, c. 664–332 BCE)

Charcoal from wildfires worldwide, the haunting remnants of rapidly spreading blazes.



99

Amulet of a Mouflon (Ancient Mesopotamia)

Soot from Eastern firestorms, where scorching infernos leave behind a trail of destruction and loss.



100
Tupilak Amulet (Inuit culture, Greenland, 20th century CE)

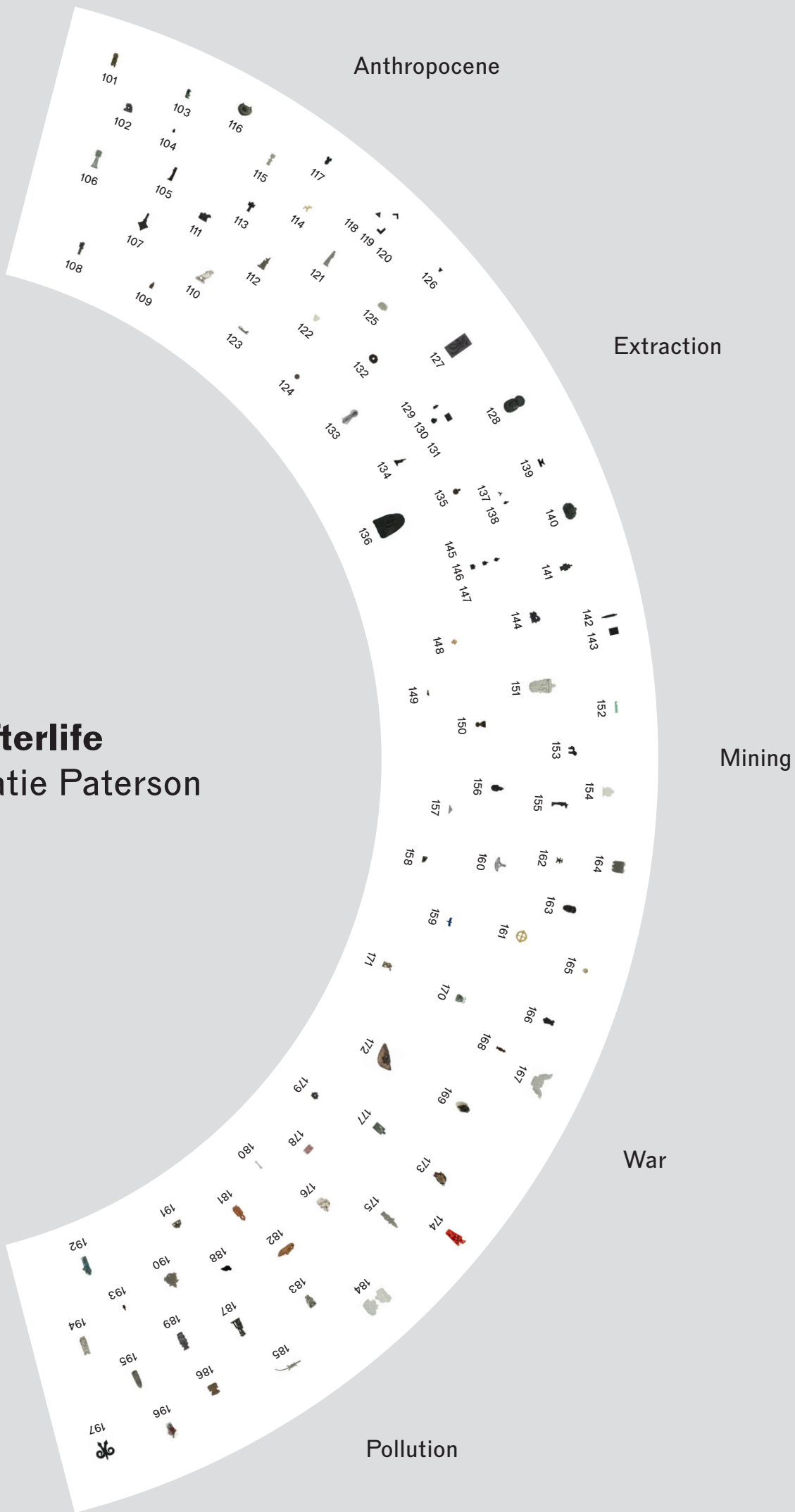
Ash from a home destroyed in an Australian wildfire, reflecting the devastating impact of extreme fire events, with smoke from recent bushfires reaching the North Pole for the first time on record.

1. Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962.

2. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres quoted in 'The Era of Global Warming Has Ended; The Era of Global Boiling Has Arrived', *The Washington Post*, 29 July 2023.

Afterlife

Katie Paterson



Anthropocene



101
Sun Face Tawa Amulet of Kachina (Juárez, Mexico, Indigenous Americas)

A trace left by acid rain, a frozen record of the Anthropocene.



102
Amulet of a Lion's Head (Ancient Rome, c. 100 CE)

Material from a northern hydroelectric dam site, which has forever altered a once-pristine landscape.



103
Amulet of Hapi, God of the Nile, signifying the annual flooding that brought life (Ancient Egypt)

Eroded topsoil, a living ecosystem which is essential to life but rapidly disappearing, with 24 billion tonnes lost annually, threatening the world's ability to grow 95% of its food.



104
Amulet of a Lotus Flower, a symbol of creation (Ancient Egypt, c. 1400 BCE)

Material from the Permian-Triassic boundary, Earth's most significant mass extinction event 252 million years ago, foreshadowing the alarming rate of the current biodiversity collapse.



105
Amulet of Nephthys, Goddess of the Air (Ancient Egypt, c. 680 BCE)

Spheroidal carbonaceous particles (SCPs) from industrial pollution, which first appeared as the fossil fuel industry spread globally, producing a smoke signal that will last forever.



106
Amulet of a Djed Pillar and the Hieroglyphic Sign for 'Enduring' (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

The shells of human-transported invasive species destined to become future fossils of environmental change.



107
Amulet of Thor's Hammer, Mjöltnir, representing Thor's ability to safeguard the cosmos (Norse Viking culture, c. 793–1066 CE)

Arctic tundra vegetation, one of Earth's most fragile ecosystems caught in an ecological doom-loop, with global warming threatening its disappearance within a century and potentially triggering a cascade of other tipping points.



108
Amulet of Amun-Min, 'The Hidden One' (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Meltwater from the Palmer ice core, containing atmospheric aerosols and pollutants carried by strong winds to Antarctica.



109
Amulet of a Human Form in Mourning (Ancient Egypt, c. 1352–1295 BCE)

Residue from Fukushima's nuclear power plant disaster in Japan.



110
Amulet of Horus (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Chemical waste and nitrogen fertilisers causing eutrophication of the water in Beppu Bay, Kyushu Island, Japan.



111
Amulet of a Ram (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Technological materials, human-made substances now embedded in Earth's geological layers, which serve as a distinct marker of human impact.



112
Amulet of a Jackal-headed Deity, Guardian of the Dead (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Chert, flint, quartz, galena, sphalerite, dolomite and chalcopyrite from ‘America’s most toxic ghost town’ in Oklahoma, USA, a monument which will take millions of years to efface from our planet’s geological archives.



113
Amulet of Shu, God of Wind and Air (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

A stratigraphic sample of nuclear fallout from the ‘Bomb Pulse’ collected from Sihailongwan Lake in Jilin Province, China, an irradiated landscape marking the legacy of mid-20th-century nuclear testing which is now embedded in Earth’s geological record.



114
Amulet of a Horse (Luristan culture, Iran, c. 945–718 BCE)

Anthropogenic carbon sequestered from the oceans.



115
Amulet of Akua-ba, a symbol of fertility (Ivory Coast, 20th century CE)

Salts from the shrinking Dead Sea, Jordan, which if it continues to disappear at its present rate, could be completely dried up by 2050.



116
Amulet with Inscriptions (Ancient Mesopotamia)

Brick, cinder block, tarmac and concrete, human-made materials symbolising the ‘weight of life’, a weight that has now surpassed the total mass of all living organisms on Earth, with the built environment reaching just over one trillion tonnes.



117
Amulet of a Shaman (Tairona culture, Indigenous Americas, c. 1000–1500 CE)

Fly ash from coal-fired power plants, which after landing in a peat bog, lake bed or sea floor, can remain buried in that stratum for many millions of years.



118 119 120

Amulet of a Surveyor's Level / Amulet of a Mason's Level / Amulet of a Set Square, representing precision, order and geometry (Ancient Egypt, c. 700–300 BCE)

Rocks that have been transported between continents by humans through trade, colonisation, migration, and scientific collection, a phenomenon without precedent in geological history.



121

Amulet of Nefertoum, God of Fragrance and Beauty (Ancient Egypt, c. 634–332 BCE)

Carbon drawn from the sky, captured through emerging technologies designed to remove atmospheric CO₂ in an attempt to reverse centuries of emissions and reimagine humanity's relationship with the air we breathe.



122

Amulet of a Lotus Flower (Ancient Egypt, c. 1352–1336 BCE)

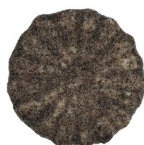
Human-transported plants that may give misleading paleoclimatic signals to future generations.



123

Amulet of Selket, Scorpion Goddess (Ancient Egypt)

A human-made stalactite formed by chemical deposition, found in an abandoned environment, in Folkestone's Martello Tower No.3.



124

Rosette Amulet (Ancient Egypt, c. 1550–1069 BCE)

Rocks from a landscape created as a simulacrum of nature, a controlled experience of the natural world achieved via total artificiality.



125

Netsuke of a Rat Gnawing on a Small Root Vegetable (Japan, c. 1820 CE)

A piece of *Aepyornis* eggshell from a giant flightless bird of Madagascar, extinct due to human impact and environmental changes.



126

**Sma Amulet, a symbol of unity (Ancient Egypt,
c. 800–500 BCE)**

Microfossils from the Pliocene, a time 3 million years ago when CO₂ concentrations were similar to today's at 420 parts per million (PPM), which reveal a world that was hotter, with less ice and a higher sea level, a long-standing analogue for a future greenhouse Earth, yet one we now seem to be surpassing at unprecedented speed.

Extraction



127
Amulet of a Phoenix, the Fenghuang, representing the cyclical nature of life (China)

Ancient oil-bearing shales, remnants of deep-time carbon, now reflected in the trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere through the burning of coal, oil, and gas.



128
Amulet of Maahes, Deity of War, Protection and Weather (Ancient Egypt)

Tar from La Brea, Los Angeles, USA, where ancient life trapped in asphalt over millions of years transformed into the fossil fuels we burn today.



129 130 131
Plants Amulet / Floral Amulet / Amulet of a Lotus Flower (Nubian culture, Sudan / Ancient Egypt / Ancient Egypt)

Bituminous coal from Utah, USA, symbolic of humanity's reliance on ancient fossil energy as Earth moves along a disastrous trajectory marked by climate tipping points that threaten mass displacement, violent conflict, and societal collapse.



132
Amulet of a Snake Eating a Snake, conveying the endless cycle of destruction and creation (Thailand)

Bituminous coal, 'dark arteries, old veins', ancient solar-fed plant matter transformed over millions of years now fuelling modern collapse.³



133
Menat Amulet (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

A discarded bottle from 'Ashland', an abandoned coal mine fire that has been burning for decades inside a labyrinth of neglected mines beneath the borough of Centralia, Pennsylvania, USA.



134
Amulet of Ra-Horakhty, symbolising eternal protection (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Material remnants caused by fracking, the industrial process of blasting water, sand and chemicals into deep rock layers to release oil and gas; an extraction method linked to groundwater contamination, methane emissions and long-term damage to fragile ecosystems.



135
Amulet of a Gorgon's Head, representing the power to petrify (Byzantine culture, c. 395–641 CE)

Eocene bitumens, asphaltum and petroleum, thick residues of ancient life trapped in rock, binding past and present in a cycle of extraction.



136
Amulet of Buddha (Thailand, c. 1300 CE)

Anthracite coal, the hardest and most energy-dense form of coal once prized for its efficiency, now a stark reminder of polluted air and water, fractured ecosystems and a climate destabilised by centuries of extraction and combustion.



137 138
Runic Lunar Crescent Amulet / Amulet of a Mango (Viking culture, c. 900–750 BCE / India, 20th century CE)

Coal from Scottish coal seams, a substance born of deep geological time, emblematic of a past whose environmental legacy continues to unfold across land, society and atmosphere.



139
Amulet of a Headrest, conveying stability in the afterlife (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Whitby jet, formed from ancient driftwood that floated in the sea of the kind of hyperthermal world we are beginning to repeat.



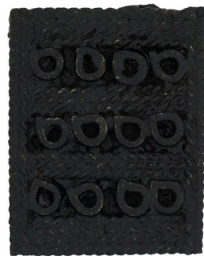
140
Amulet with Hunters, Dogs and Snakes (Sasanian culture, c. 224–651 CE)

Cannel coal, once used for gas lighting in the 19th century before being replaced by petroleum.



141
Amulet Depicting a Saint on a Cross (Byzantine culture, c. 330–1453 CE)

Lignite coal, ancient sunlight trapped in decomposed plants and compressed over millions of years, now burned, returning carbon to the atmosphere.



142 143
Buddhist Amulet with Inscriptions / Tuareg Gris-Gris (Thailand / Tuareg culture, Morocco)

Carboniferous ferns from Pennsylvania, USA, fossilised and transformed into coal seams.



144
Eye of Horus Amulet, a symbol of wholeness and restoration (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Tar from Alberta's oil sands, the world's most destructive oil operation sprawling across northern Canada's wilderness, which has led to the degradation of nearly 2 million acres of boreal forest, encroaching on Indigenous lands and contaminating the environment.



145 146 147
Amulet of a Heart / Lunar Amulet / Amulet of the Seven Sisters (India / Sri Lanka / India)

Coal from Longyearbyen in Svalbard, an archipelago now turning its back on a century-old fossil fuel legacy in the High Arctic, as Norway prepares to close its last mine.



148
Amulet of Akhet, the Sun on the Horizon (Ancient Egypt)

Kimmeridge Clay, rich with the origins of North Sea oil, which when extracted and burned contributes significantly to global carbon emissions.

Mining



149

Amulet in the Shape of a Hand, a symbol to ward off evil (Phoenician culture, c. 500–300 BCE)

Conflict minerals, which are extracted from war zones under violent and exploitative conditions, fuelling ongoing conflict and human rights abuses.



150

Amulet of a Human (Etruscan, Tunisia, c. 150–50 BCE)

Phosphate rock, a finite and vanishing resource that is mined to make fertiliser.



151

Amulet of a Face (Phoenician culture, Syro-Palestine, c. 1550–656 BCE)

Lithium drawn from evaporation ponds in the Atacama Desert, Chile.



152

Amulet of a Tiger (China, Late Shang – Early Western Zhou dynasty, c. 1300–950 BCE)

Jade washed down by glacial runoff, carried by melting ice that reflects the changing climate.



153

Amulet of a Lion (Ancient Rome, c. 200–300 CE)

Metal pellets from deep-sea mining, extracted from the ocean floor in pursuit of valuable minerals that endanger the fragile midnight zone.



154
Amulet of the Shen-sign, a representation of infinity
(Ancient Egypt, c. 600 BCE)

Marble quarried from monumental peaks now stripped and scarred by industrial extraction.



155
Amulet of Anubis, Jackal-Headed God, Guardian of Tombs and Weigher of Souls (Ancient Egypt)

Debris from mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia, USA, where explosives have torn away the tops of over 500 peaks, leaving devastation in the pursuit of coal.



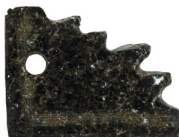
156
Amulet of a Face (Phoenician culture, c. 1000–600 BCE)

Heavy metals and acid drainage seeping from abandoned mines in Tasmania, which are contaminating the region's waterways.



157
Amulet of a Weight, conveying fairness and justice
(Ancient Egypt, c. 700–300 BCE)

Residue from sulphide mining in the Yukon, scarring one of North America's most remote and once-untouched landscapes.



158
Amulet of a Staircase, a symbol of ascension
(Ancient Egypt, c. 664–332 BCE)

Kimberlite from diamond mines, the volcanic rock that carries ancient gems to Earth's surface, symbolising the environmental and human cost of diamond extraction.



159
Amulet of a Dragonfly, conveying transformation and renewal (Ancient Egypt, c. 1981–1640 BCE)

'Blood crystals' from Afghanistan, where mining is steeped in conflict, exploitation and human suffering.



160
Amulet of Thor's Hammer (Viking culture, c. 793–1066 CE)

Mined aluminium extracted through energy-intensive processes that generate toxic waste and devastate ecosystems.



161
Amulet of a Wheel, symbolising the elements and the interconnectedness of all forces (Pagan culture, c. 600 CE)

Mined Australian gold, extracted through resource-heavy processes that displace land, damage fragile ecosystems and leave lasting impacts on Indigenous communities.



162
Amulet of an Eagle (Indigenous Americas, c. 400–500 CE)

Ore extracted from the psychedelic potash mines of Russia's Ural Mountains, an industrially exploited underground world.



163
Netsuke of Demon (Japan, c. 1603–1868 CE)

Mined materials from Baiyun'ebo, Inner Mongolia, home to Earth's largest rare-earth deposits, fuelling modern technology while leaving behind toxic radioactive waste and contaminated waters.



164
Amulet of a Demon (Thailand)

Minerals quarried from Namibia, formed over millennia through geological processes, now extracted for global markets with mining impacting the delicate desert ecosystem.



165
Amulet of a Bull's Head (Ancient Egypt, c. 2960–2770 BCE)

Shards from excavated mountains, landscapes hollowed for resources, reshaped by industry and stripped of their ancient geological memory.

War



166

Amulet of a Double Feather, signifying the soul's lightness in the afterlife (Ancient Egypt, c. 570–526 BCE)

Ground-up Trinitite from the first atomic bomb detonation in New Mexico, USA, described as 'the shatterer of worlds', where sand was transformed into glass by the intense heat of the blast; an atomic birthmark of the Anthropocene.⁴



167

Amulet with Two Faces (Greco-Roman, 4th century BCE)

Rubble from 'Devil's Mountain', Teufelsberg, Germany, a kilometre long hill created from the wreckage of bombed-out buildings after WWII, embodying a landscape forged from destruction.



168

Isis Knot Amulet (Ancient Egypt, c. 600–300 BCE)

Landmine debris, reflecting the ongoing humanitarian crisis where abandoned minefields continue to kill thousands of civilians each year, predominantly children, leaving behind a legacy of suffering and destruction.



169

Amulet of a Human-Headed Heart (Ancient Egypt, c. 1400 BCE)

Shrapnel and barbed wire strips from D-Day, Omaha beach, Normandy, France.



170

Amulet of an Idol with Eyes (Ancient Sumerian culture, Girsu, Tello, Iraq, c. 3500–2900 BCE)

Submerged fragments from Million Dollar Point, a military junkyard off Vanuatu's shore, where the US military dumped tonnes of equipment into the sea after WWII.



171
Amulet of Uraeus, a Rearing Cobra Which Spits Fire
(Ancient Egypt, c. 664–343 BCE)

Anthropogenic soils from war zones in Europe shaped by human conflict, where traces of war continue to linger in the landscape.

172
Eye of Horus Amulet (Ancient Egypt)

Fallen branches from the Ginkgo child trees of Hibakujumoku, survivors of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb.



Pollution



173

Amulet of a King (Sasanian culture, c. 224–642 CE)

Circuit boards washed up from the ocean, the life support system of our planet, the damage of which will have consequences for all life on Earth in the years to come.



174

Amulet of an Olmec Corn Symbol, representing life, nourishment, and growth (Olmec culture, Mesoamerica, c. 1200–400 BCE)

Environmental fibres from 'fast fashion', which may outlive their creators and persist in ecosystems for centuries or millennia.



175

Amulet of a Zemi, an ancestral spirit (Taino culture, Indigenous Americas, c. 1500 CE)

Plastiglomerate, a human-made material formed when plastic and stone fuse to create a new form of geology.



176

Netsuke of a Pair of Birds Touching Beaks (Japan)

Regurgitated plastic from an Antarctic baby albatross, a haunting trace of seabirds starving as their stomachs fill with plastic.



177

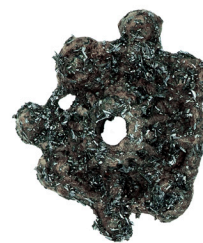
Amulet of Buddha (Thailand)

Microplastics from tyres, one of the largest sources of plastic pollution worldwide, contaminating soil, waterways and marine environments.



178
Triple Wadjet Eye Amulet, evoking divine sight and healing
(Ancient Egypt, c. 1075–332 BCE)

'Forever chemicals' (PFAS), a family of several thousand deep-time dioxins, ubiquitous across soil, water and life, that defy natural breakdown.



179
Amulet of the Solar System (Ancient Rome, c. 100–200 CE)

Space junk, drawn from the 130 million fragments of debris almost invisibly orbiting the Earth.



180
Amulet of the 'Nefer' Hieroglyph, representing beauty, perfection and goodness (Nubian culture, Sudan, c. 900–1100 CE)

Polystyrene recovered from the deepest part of Earth's ocean, the Mariana Trench, a synthetic trace left in an abyss previously untouched for millions of years.



181
Tyt Amulet (Ancient Egypt, c. 2500–2340 BCE)

Microplastics from the summit of Mount Everest, Nepal, where even Earth's highest point is contaminated.



182
Netsuke of a Catfish and Kappa, conveying balance between water and land (Japan, c. 1603–1868 CE)

Sea-excavated, once-buried objects from the Thames Estuary landfill, waste unearthed by shifting tides as London's discarded past resurfaces along the shore.



183
Amulet of Pazuzu, a Mesopotamian demon who guards against malevolent forces (Late Babylonian culture, c. 800–500 BCE)

River mud contaminated by a kaleidoscope of synthetic pollutants.



184

A pair of carved amulets of a Mayan maize God, associated with the renewal of the Earth (Maya culture, Mesoamerica, c. 500–700 CE)

Nitrogen from the Haber-Bosch process, an industrial chemical that has transformed agriculture while contributing to soil degradation, water pollution, and the disruption of natural nitrogen cycles.



185

Amulet of a Crocodile, Sobek, the God of Water (Ancient Egypt, c. 332–30 BCE)

Stones from the endangered riverbeds of the Colorado River, USA, the Grand Canyon's drying artery which rarely reaches the ocean anymore.



186

Amulet of Bes, God of Fertility (Ancient Egypt, c. 1069–332 BCE)

Deep sea mud contaminated by microplastics, illustrating the rapid increase in plastic production which surged from around one million tonnes annually in 1950 to more than 350 million tonnes per year today.



187

Amulet of Bastet, Goddess of Protection (Ancient Egypt, c. 1069–664 BCE)

River stones from the polluted Yangtze River in China, the largest contributor of plastic waste to the oceans, carrying toxins that threaten marine life, ecosystems and human health along its vast 6,300 kilometre course.



188

Amulet of a Bird (Ancient Rome, c. 100 CE)

Remnants of technofossils, human-made materials that leave a permanent mark in Earth's strata, forming an irreversible geological legacy that encapsulates our industrial and technological era.



189
Amulet of Bes (Ancient Egypt)

Water drawn from the River Ganges, Bangladesh, an archetype of sacred waters which flows over 2,500 kilometres, now tainted by toxic waste, industrial runoff, sewage, and plastic.



190
Amulet of a River Turtle (Ancient Egypt, c. 3500–3300 BCE)

River stones from the Osun River, Nigeria, once revered as the sacred waters of the Goddess Osun, now a lethal cocktail of industrial waste and pollution caused by human neglect.



191
Amulet of a Sow, representing life-giving forces (Ancient Egypt, c. 700–400 BCE)

Traces of light-polluting sources that have disrupted the natural rhythms of nocturnal life, upon which all life has relied for billions of years.



192
Amulet of Nehebkau, the Snake Deity, 'He Who Unites the Soul' (Ancient Egypt, c. 700 CE)

Plastic from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an island of waste in the North Pacific Gyre spanning 1.6 million square kilometres, a stark monument to global pollution.



193
Amulet of a Poppy Seed, a symbol of rejuvenation (Ancient Egypt, c. 1400 BCE)

Waste material from the Gbene-ol oil spill in Nigeria, part of the ongoing devastation of the Niger Delta, reflecting the catastrophic impact of oil spills across the globe.



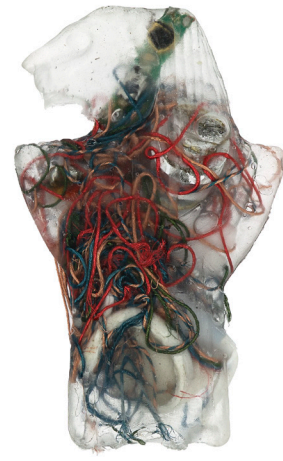
194
Amulet of a Cartouche with Solar Disk and Ostrich Feather (Ancient Egypt, c. 380–362 BCE)

Mud from the Mississippi River, USA, where lead-laced beads from Mardi-Gras celebrations contribute to the river's contamination.



195
Amulet of Buddha (Thailand)

Pulverised rock from Onkalo, Finland, the site where nuclear waste will be buried for 100,000 years, longer than humanity has known itself.



196
Amulet of a Lion-Headed Aegis Sekhmet, 'The Powerful One' (Ancient Egypt, c. 664–30 BCE)

Electronic waste, the discarded remains of our digital age accumulating in vast quantities, leaching pollutants into soil and water.



197
Amulet of a Serpent (Burkina Faso, West Africa, 20th century CE)

Metal shards from Chittagong, a vast ship-breaking yard in Bangladesh 'where ships go to die', with vessels dismantled by hand at great environmental and human cost.

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A range of methods was used to create the amulets. Many were cast from moulds made using 3D prints, with materials mixed with plant resins, beeswax and various plasters. Others were carved by hand. Production was realised by 3Dify, Barbican Plasterwork, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Silvan Studio, and many others, with graphic design by Fraser Muggeridge studio. The artist also thanks Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Form and Matter, Goethe-Institut, Glasgow, Martello Building Consultancy and Jonathan Wright.

Telling the story of the Earth's destruction through its material remnants has involved sourcing a wide range of difficult, contentious and highly charged substances – a significant challenge throughout the making of *Afterlife*. Many of these materials were generously donated by major research institutes and individuals across the world, acquired as deaccessioned items, gathered as hand-collected found objects, or reused from Katie Paterson's previous projects. Most of the materials are pre-existing, approached with sensitivity to their origins. The collection comprises recycled, cast-off, discarded and obsolete matter – ranging from ice samples, deaccessioned ice cores and glacial meltwater to stratigraphic samples, chemical residues, microplastics, space debris, minerals, fossils, sands, vegetation, seeds, detritus, waste material, corals, and marine sediments – tracing a journey from the deepest parts of the globe to the stratosphere.

This evolving material archive has been made possible through the generous support of hundreds of people and places worldwide: Aarhus University, Department of Environmental Science; Professor Alexandre Magno Barbosa Anesio; Algalita Marine Research and Education, Preventing Plastic Pollution; Andri Snaer Magnason; Appalachian Voices; Protecting the Central and Southern Appalachian Mountain Region; Artica Svalbard; British Antarctic Survey; British Council, Kazakhstan; CARBIFIX, Iceland; Carnegie Institution, Geophysical Laboratory; Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences; Dr Barbara Fiałkiewicz-Kozielek; Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), Port Harcourt; Dr Benjamin A. Ubleble; Coal River Mountain Watch; Chinese

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