

Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith  
*CORRESPONDENCES*

January 16 – February 22, 2025  
kurimanzutto, New York City

*CORRESPONDENCES* is an ongoing collaboration between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith, spanning over a decade and traversing diverse geographies, histories, and natural environments. The presentation at kurimanzutto in New York, from January 16 to February 22, marks the first time this body of work will be shown in New York and in a gallery setting.

At its core, the project transforms field recordings collected by Soundwalk Collective's founder, Stephan Crasneanski, from some of the world's most remote and resonant landscapes—sites of poetic inspiration, historical significance, and environmental urgency—into immersive soundscapes. These compositions evoke a "sonic memory" of place, embodying traces of revolutionaries, artists, and the ongoing impact of climate change. Through an intimate dialogue with these recordings, Patti Smith channels her poetic voice to create pieces that reflect on the intersections of nature, human history, and artistic creation. Each work challenges the traditional relationship between sound and image, allowing the sonic landscapes to dictate their visual counterparts.

At kurimanzutto New York, Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith will present an experimental, site-specific video installation featuring all eight *CORRESPONDENCES* films from their collaborative body of work: *Pasolini*, *Medea*, *Children of Chernobyl*, *The Acolyte*, *the Artist and Nature*, *Cry of the Lost*, *Prince of Anarchy*, *Mass Extinction 1946-2024*, and *Burning 1946-2024*. This collection, totaling 111 minutes of film, moves from the resilience of nature in Chernobyl's aftermath, to wildfires worldwide since Patti's year of birth, the story of Piotr Kropotkin, and wild animals, to Pasolini's final night in the Roman wastelands. These are just a few of the layers that make up the intricate

creations born from this collaboration, which continue to evolve and shift each time they are presented. For this gallery presentation in Chelsea, the video installation will immerse the entire space with a multi-channel projection, while the soundtracks – composed by Soundwalk Collective and featuring lyrics written and recited by Patti Smith– fill the room.

At the center of the exhibition are two sculptural, backlit cabinets: *Pasolini / Medea* (2024) and *Cry of the Lost / Prince of Anarchy* (2024). These pieces illuminate the various layers of inspiration and the process behind *CORRESPONDENCES*. The cabinets contain handwritten lyrics and texts by Patti Smith, photographs of objects expelled from the sea near Ostia, where Pasolini was killed, stones collected by Stephan Crasneanski from Medea's Black Sea, tape transfers on glass depicting the shapes of melted glaciers, and photographs and notes by Jean-Luc Godard. These layered works form visual mindscapes that emerge from Soundwalk Collective's lived experience, combined with the imaginative connections created through Patti Smith's interpretation and poetic inspiration.

A series of obsidian stone sculptures, brought from the volcanic landscape of Mexico, have been arranged in a peculiar garden formation. The massive vitreous rocks from Guadalajara were engraved using an ancient technique to create small circular mirrors for spiritual purposes. These sculptures appear to reflect and converse with each other, with Patti Smith's intervention guiding the way these powerful minerals interact through their circular reflections. The obsidian also evokes alien forms, symbolizing messages from beyond, while their true origin lies deep within the Earth's crust.

In addition to the sculptures, the artists have used archival materials, handwritten texts, drawings, visual studies, and scientific data to create works on paper that offer audiences a deeper view into the profound exchange between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith, exploring sound, poetry, and the fragile connections between humanity and the environment.

Over the years, the collaboration between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith has manifested in international live performances, institutional exhibitions, film screenings (including at the Venice Biennale), poetry readings, and workshops. This marks their first gallery exhibition in New York.