

**Anika Schwarzlose (b. 1982) & Brian D. McKenna (b. 1977)**

**Mineral Machine Extracts**

**2021**

In this first instalment of the UNEARTH film series, Anika Schwarzlose and Brian D. McKenna explore the ecological, political and mythological context of mineral extraction. The film interweaves several conversations recorded during visits to the Urals. In one of the fragments, the PR team of a mining company launches a plan to replace human mineworkers by robots, and in another two geologists report the discovery of new, previously unknown minerals.

Human intervention can cause new rocks to form, an example of the huge impact that the mining of minerals has on our natural environment. The new rocks cause mutations and new processes in biological entities, illustrating the co-evolution of humans and nature.

*Mineral Machine Extracts* discusses the complications of mining for minerals and highlights from a climate-critical and post-humanist perspective how humans and their environment influence each other. The series is a case study that raises a universally relevant issue: who has power over our environment? And to what extent do humans and their environment depend on each other? Ultimately, in fact: whose is the world?