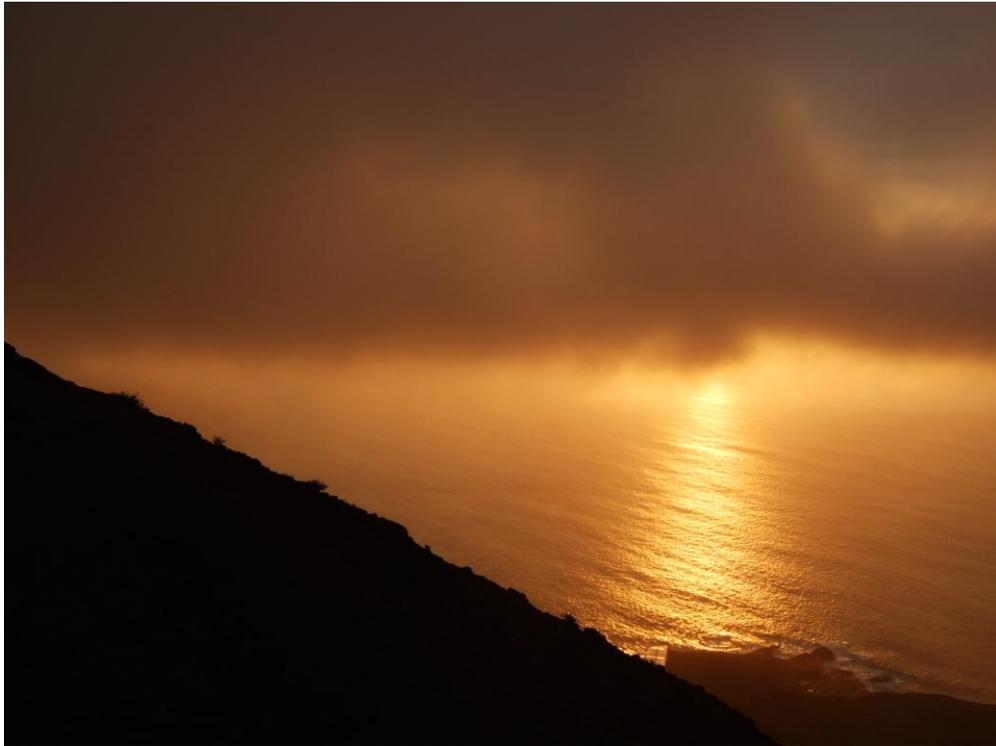


De Rerum Natura//

Dance of the Elements

**Ars Acustica Composition by Merzouga based on the based on the didactic poem
De Rerum Natura (On the Nature of Things) by Titus Lucretius Caro (99 BC – 55 BC).
Produced by YLEISRADIO, Finland 2015.**



De Rerum Natura is a didactic poem by the Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius (c. 99 – 55 BCE). The poem is divided into six untitled books, and explores Epicurean physics and philosophy through richly poetic language and metaphors. It presents an entire cosmology: based on the principles of atomism, Lucretius explains the nature of the mind and soul, and the development of the world. While everything in the universe is finite, the atoms themselves are eternal – they collide, create life-forms and dissolve, just to collide again in order to create new forms. Life is a beautiful chance-driven *Dance of the Elements*. The composition by sound-artists Eva Pöpplein and Janko Hanushevsky (aka Merzouga) is a poetic sonic translation of Lucretius' ideas. We encounter fragments of Lucretius' text in English and in Latin intertwined with a complex *ars acustica* composition. The radio-piece consists of six chapters, transposing the structure of Lucretius' six books into the compositional structure. The listener embarks on a sonic journey in which a universe of sound unfolds. Smallest sonic elements float through space, merge to create concrete forms, transform into different consistencies, steadily in motion in a constant process of becoming and dissolving. Late in the piece the sounds of mammals and humans arrive just to dissolve again and when the circle is closing.

There is no delay, no rest to interrupt the flow, we can constantly feel it, and we can see things, smell them, and perceive their sound. (Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, Book VI: 932+933)

Composed & Directed by Merzouga
Speaker: Stefko Hanushevsky
Editor: Soila Valkama
Produced by YLEISRADIO 2015.