

Recent work of
Miguel Escobar
2020

General work description

In my artistic practice I transform visual elements to recognize references that seem strange despite being their own. Often my works create situations in which concepts of what belongs to, what is known and what is familiar, are turned into something strange, unknown and uncanny, aiming to provoke questions related to alterity. My videos and video-installations, often follow processes of deconstruction in which references, meanings and symbolic values are articulated, pointing out and provoking tensions in them. My works are largely digital and the media used have high relevance in them. They are produced through photo-editing, video-editing or programming delving, for instance, into questions related to the way images are created.

An Image of a Façade

Link to trailer on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/389476643>



An Image of a Façade

Projected Full HD video with stereo sound,
6m x 3.4m screen dimensions,
Loop of 12min41sec
(2020)

In this video, a film-still of the movie “Blow” (Ted Demme, 2011) representing a geographical location is dissected. In that process, the landscape of the image becomes a space of mere facades, one composed of fragile bidimensional elements. This visual appearance refers to the space of a film set, as well as to an outer face, representative of a building which is an architectural facade. Such a set of heterogeneous elements seems to be present in more than one place at the same time. Its description corresponds with various and contradicting references and, as a consequence of that, it is difficult to know who or what is being represented.



Documentation of An Image of a Façade (installation view)



Documentation of An Image of a Façade (installation view)

Bending Granite

Link to trailer on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/389476643>



Bending Granite

Projected Full HD two-channel video with stereo sound
6m x 1.7m,
10min 8sec loop.
(2020)

This two-channel video opens up a space contained in a statue of a scared lion placed in Warandepark, in Brussels. While a camera wanders in a photogrammetry model of the statue, a voice-over describes it, identifying places and relations in a speculative manner. Features of a beast, a statue, and a mineral seem to juxtapose on the same fragile object. Although the statue remains motionless, it could be seen as transforming into something else every time the voice-over describes it differently.



Documentation of Bending Granite (installation view)



Untitled 2 - Crowd Portraits Series

Link to video documentation on Vimeo, as presented in
Lugar a Dudas in 2018:
<https://vimeo.com/261921054>



Untitled 2
Interactive installation,
Variable dimensions,
2018

This interactive installation is based on a photographic document related to Jorge Eliécer Gaitán's presidential campaign in Colombia in 1948. In the photographic document, the protagonist is the crowd of people who look at the camera. The work consists of a video-projection and an interactive mechanism able to detect the movement of the public. When there is no movement in front of the projection screen, single portraits found in the photographic document are projected. When something moves, the portrait is turned into a noisy, phantasmagoric image. This noisy image is the result of mixing pixels of all the faces found in the document.



Documentación of Untitled 2 (Installation view at Lugar a Dudas, Cali, 2018).

186 Expectations



Link to excerpt of the video on Vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com/199279381>

Untitled 2
Interactive installation,
Variable dimensions,
In lugar a dudas, Cali, 2018

This two-channel video is the result of an editing process of a six-second excerpt of the movie “Week Democracy Week” (“La Semana de la Democracia”), produced by Los Hermanos Acevedo in 1945. In the original excerpt, a crowd looks in expectation at something out of the frame. This is shown in slow motion on the right channel. On the left channel, each individual of the crowd is shown. This results in a video that stretches the initial six seconds in almost forty minutes in which the viewer waits for the moment when something happens.



Film-still of Untitled 2.



Film-still of Untitled 2.



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