

JOHN ROVIRA

Disrupted Spaces

2015

MA Photography,

Kingston University, 2015

Rovira's work is trying to come to terms with the issue of migration, refugees and traffickers. Images of these people pervade the moment, some faces repeating like familiar strangers in the media. Comparing the current crisis with my family's migration from Spain back in the fifties by juxtaposing found images of migrants with photos taken from an old family photo album. The appropriated images of refugees are inverted to produce a "negative" image that reflects the view that they often receive. This is contrasted with the "positive" image that my family received when they migrated. These images are projected onto locations to create spaces and scenes that do not exist, a refuge that migrants may never get to experience.

John Rovira has been a lifelong urban and night photographer who began to feel that his practice had become repetitive. John decided to disrupt his practice by completing an MA in Photography at Kingston University. This helped John to rethink his approach and to consider the issues of photographs and photography in the digital age; he is interested in the appropriation and reuse of images taken from the Internet, and the issue of image ownership, when everything is taken as free. This consideration has helped John to take less photographs. John also created the Venus Flytrap - a series of Perspex boxes that automatically take people's "selfies" and send the images to popular social media websites while printing the image in the gallery for the viewer to decide what to do with the photograph. To this end John had to create an alter ego called Dora Self who has her own Facebook, Instagram, Twitter accounts. Dora was one of the recent winners of the 2016 Berlin Fashion Film Festival where John assisted in the gallery space while Dora took the photographs.

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