



unplace

networked art: places-between-places

Credits

Clement Valla

Postcards From Google Earth · 2011

Collection of Google Earth images Website.

Work Presentations:

- 2015 — *Phantom Vibrations*, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA.
- 2015 — *Sécurité : Que Reste-t-il De Nos Espaces De Liberté?*, Art Souterrain, Montreal, Canada.
- 2014 — *Postcards from Google Earth*, Thomassen Gallery, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2014 — *Placemakers*, swissnex, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- 2014 — *Festival des Images*, Vevey, Switzerland.
- 2014 — *Synthetisch Vernünftig*, Lab for Emerging Arts and Performance (LEAP), Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 — *Internet Aware: Selections from Rhizome.org*, Ace Hotel, NY, USA.
- 2013 — *Paddles On!*, Phillips auction house, NY, USA.
- 2013 — *Surveying the Terrain*, CAM, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- 2013 — *Journey Forth*, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- 2013 — *Chasing Horizons*, Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Milwaukee, WI, USA.
- 2012 — *Google Earth Skyscrapers, Google Earth Bridges*, L'unique, Caen, France.
- 2012 — *Localize*, Potsdamer Stadtkanal, Potsdamer, Germany.
- 2012 — *SPLASH #1*, PHrame/RECYCLART, Bruxelles, Belgium.
- 2011 — *Paradise*, Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid, Antiguo Edificio De Tabacalera, Madrid, Spain.
- 2012 — *The Wassaic Project Summer Festival*, The Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY, USA.

Biography

Clement Valla

Born in 1979 in Paris, France. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, USA.

Clement Valla is a Brooklyn-based artist and has a BA in Architecture from Columbia University and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in Digital+Media. He is currently an assistant professor of Graphic Design at RISD. His work has been exhibited internationally, at such venues as the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis; Museum of the Moving Image, New York; Thomassen Galleri, Gothenburg; bitforms gallery, New York; Mulherin + Pollard Projects, New York; DAAP Galleries, University of Cincinnati; 319 Scholes, New York; and the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Milwaukee. His solo show *Surface Survey*, 2014 at the Transfer Gallery in New York was an Artforum Critics' Pick and his work was included in the *Paddles On!*, 2013 auction at Phillips, organised by Lindsay Howard. His work has been cited in *The Guardian*, *Wall Street Journal*, *TIME Magazine*, *El Pais*, *Huffington Post*, *Rhizome*, *Domus*, *Wired*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Liberation*, and on BBC television.

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Description

Postcards from Google Earth is a collection of Google Earth images that allows us to look at two places simultaneously: the space of a distorted picture plane and, through the same picture plane, the real space depicted in the texture.

I discovered some strange moments where the illusion of a seamless representation of the Earth's surface seems to break down. At first, I thought they were glitches, or errors in the algorithm, but looking more closely I realised that the real situation was actually more interesting - these images are not glitches. They are the absolute logical result of the system. They are an edge condition - an anomaly within the system, a non-standard, an outlier, even, but not an error. These jarring moments expose how Google Earth works, focusing our attention on the software - [The Universal Texture](#). They reveal a new model of representation: not through indexical photographs, but through automated data collection from a myriad of different sources, constantly updated and endlessly combined to create a seamless illusion; Google Earth is a database disguised as a photographic representation. These uncanny images focus our attention on that process itself, and the network of algorithms, computers, storage systems, automated cameras, maps, pilots, engineers, photographers, surveyors and map-makers that generate them.

C.V.

