Simon FAITHFULL

Does The World Exist - When I’m Not There?

Galerie Polaris
15 rue des Arquebusiers 75003 Paris
January 7 – February 18 - 2017

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www.galeriepolaris.com
Going Nowhere 1.5
HD video, 9min, 2016

Going Nowhere 1.5 presents a walk around the perimeter an inter-tidal island as it slowly disappears under the rising waves.

The third in a trilogy of works that now spans 20 years, the film again shows a figure that seems locked in a Sisyphean quest. A small sand-island in the North Sea is filmed from a drone as the tide gradually eats away at its coast. A tiny figure walks purposely around its edge, spiralling inwards as the waters rise. Eventually the dry sands of the island vanish beneath the waves and the figure is gone.

http://www.simonfaithfull.org/works/going-nowhere1-5/

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Going Nowhere 2

HD video, 5min
Going Nowhere 2 presents a walk through a landscape at the bottom of the Adriatic Sea.

A figure dressed in jeans and a white shirt walks purposefully away from the camera and steps laboriously through a landscape of fish, rocks and watery light until he disappears into the murky distance. A series of shots capture the figure travelling on his journey through this parallel universe – how is he able to walk 10 meters beneath the surface of the sea or where he is going is not clear, but he seems to have an objective or path that he is following.

http://www.simonfaithfull.org/works/going-nowhere2/

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0°00 Navigation – Part II
80 digital photographs in slide-show projection, 2015

0°00 Navigation – Part II: A Journey Across Europe and Africa is the second of three epic and quixotic journeys tracing 0° meridian line across the planet.
For this body of work, a journey was undertaken across the landmasses of Europe and Africa traveling south along the 0° line of Latitude and heading in the direction of the exact centre of nowhere. The journey began on the north coast of France where the meridian line emerges from the sea. In 80 photographs, a black-clad figure is pictured with his back to the camera standing exactly on the 0°00 line of longitude. In each slide this figure occupies the exact centre of the image but the landscape behind him slowly changes from the temperate fields of France, to the dry plains of Spain, to the Saharan desert of Algeria, to the bush of Burkina Faso and Togo and finally the lush vegetation and cities of Ghana. The slide show ends with the figure standing in the waters of the Atlantic on the Ghanaian coast where the line disappears into the ocean. As always the figure is facing south towards the ‘Zero Point’ of the planet where the 0° Greenwich Meridian crosses the 0° Equator in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

The placing of the prime meridian is an utterly arbitrary act, its location in Greenwich in East London being one of the lasting legacies of the naval power of the British Empire. The line is used as a datum point for the planet (a ‘0’ for the systems that measure space and time upon this sphere) and yet in any physical sense, it does not exist. 0°00 Navigation explores some of the paradoxes and absurdities of this hypothetical line and the strange geopolitics that occur when reality collides with this abstraction. The journey began in summer 2014 and concluded in March 2015. A stream of diary entries entitled Notes from Nowhere, record the details and encounters made along this zero line. Impressions of the journey were also transmitted live to the world as a series of drawings.

http://www.simonfaithfull.org/works/0-navigation-2/

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Going Nowhere I

cVHS transferred to DVD, 7min 1995

Trudging through drifting snow, a figure walks slowly away from the camera. The silhouette gradually recedes to become a dot in the white landscape and finally disappears over the distant horizon.

The light changes as clouds pass overhead, birds flit by and it becomes apparent that the camera has been left to its own devices. Going Nowhere I was an attempt to witness an absence and to check whether the world still existed during this absence.

http://www.simonfaithfull.org/works/going-nowhere1/

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Selected exhibitions:

2016 Simon Faithfull: Zero, Sprinhornhof Kunstverein, Germany
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2015 RECIF 2: Traversée, Le Musée des Beaux-Arts, Calais, France
0°00 Navigation Part II - A Journey Across Europe and Africa, ICIA, Bath, UK

2014 RECIF 1: Antipode, FRAC Basse Normandie, Caen, France
REEF, Fabrica, Brighton, UK

2012 An Expanding Atlas of Subjectivity, Phoenix Art Centre, Leicester, England

2011 Going Nowhere - Simon Faithfull, New York, Parker's Box, USA
An Expanding Atlas of Subjectivity, National Museum (Project Space), Berlin

2010 Voyages Extraordinaires - (Simon Faithfull/Christoph Keller), Altkirch, CRAC Alsace
Recent Findings - Simon Faithfull, Harris Museum, Preston, UK

2009 Gravity Sucks, British Film Institute Gallery, London
Schwerlos, Simon Faithfull & Carla Guagliardi, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, Germany

2008 Simon Faithfull - Selected Video Works, France, Galerie Polaris, Paris

2006 Ice Blink, Stills, Edinburgh, Scotland
Ice Blink, Cell, London
Ice Blink, Parker's Box, New York

2005 Antarctica Dispatches, CCA Glasgow

2004 Hard Drive, ICA (Digital Studio), London
Vanishing Point, Pumphouse Gallery, Battersea, London

30Km - Film and Video Umbrella Commission, Aspex

2003 Dreamland - Droit House, Margate, Turner Contemporary