

## Expanded Gazes

*Duration for an Instant* and *Vista On / Vista Off* are digital representations exhibited in analogical formats. Denise Agassi refers to the concept of *augmented reality*, which widens the physical space from virtual information. With this, she questions the act of observation, since the artist reorganises indices of reality in order to build other landscapes. The experience constitutes itself in a symbolic act to think afresh contemporary images, as they are represented here through devices such as the compass, tripod and printed photographs.

In *Duration for an Instant*, the initial photograph is divided into 400 parts highlighting the chaos of its composition. Such pieces are edited so that the details are more or less visible. Denise Agassi proposes that the visitors also edit the image she has composed. The small photographs can have their places exchanged, stressing the fleeting character of the digital images and rendering banal editing possibilities. In other words, any person can re-edit an image, whose original referents are always in transformation. A temporal-spatial duration is created between the spectator and each of the image's detail.

*Vista On / Vista Off* consists in an optical device featuring a monument by means of two images. The first is a photograph selected from an online database and the second displays the same monument as seen by Google Earth, framed identically. The piece establishes a duality in which the two images placed together create a specific relationship: they fuse, triggering 3D illusion. This sort of lunette is pointed towards the monument as if it could be seen from within the exhibition space. This strategy, guided by mechanisms such as the compass, creates a virtual gaze around the world and establishes a relation with something localised geographically and imagetically, but which is not present physically.

On the other hand, Denise Agassi starts from the "imposition" that the tourist must record the "achievement" of having visited the monument. *Duration for an Instant* and *Vista On / Vista Off* challenge the ephemeral of such experience. Concepts such as reality, memory and

documentation are reorganised and demand from us to think afresh from the development of the digital and of the internet. Both pieces highlight that the techniques and aesthetics of the digital image are combined in the generation of new signic species. The computer, the massive presence of digital cameras and the internet reconfigure the gaze so that the record and distribution become another starting point for the tourist's experience. These themes are present in the artist's Masters dissertation *Meeting Pints: investigations on the online and offline artistic experiences*, concluded this year at Faculdade Santa Marcelina.

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