

44/13

44/13 is a monumental 12 meters wide projection based on a single video take made by Mateusz Herczka during a train trip between Lelystadt and Almere in the Netherlands. The footage documents a travellers perspective through an artificial piece of land between two "designer cities". The landscape is completely flat and the bland architecture is neither oldfashioned nor radical.

The image is processed with an analytical transform algorithm used in computer vision and robotics. The method is also similar to slitscanning, a photographic effect used in films like Stanley Kubrick's "2001, a Space Odyssey". A computer program remaps the time-axis of the movie to the x-axis, which results in a very wide moving image showing an analysis of what was seen, time progressing to the right. Unlike any "special effect", this is a reversible data transformation - running the transform twice will yield the original footage again.

44/13 is made in a simple, direct way, based on very specific choices of subject, process and technology. The mechanical processing of fairly trivial footage results in neither film nor still image, evoking high speed as well as extreme slowness, and poetic references to large scale landscape and cityscape painting. The processed image relates to visualisation science by making new information visible, while raising questions about human interpretation of reality. Here Mateusz Herczka links to artists like Charles Ray, who dislocates perception by applying logical or illogical operations to common everyday objects, or James Turrell who uses light to make human perception visible.

The perplexing qualities result from matching specifications of the computer algorithm with those of landscape. Because of its artificiality, the land's flatness and horizontality coincides perfectly with the iterations of the software. Linear motion, repetitions, acceleration and deceleration are clearly laid out, visualizing the temporal relationships between features in the landscape, something which normally flickers by. The original trip lasted about 44 minutes. Because time has been spread out on the wall, the new duration is about 13 minutes.

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