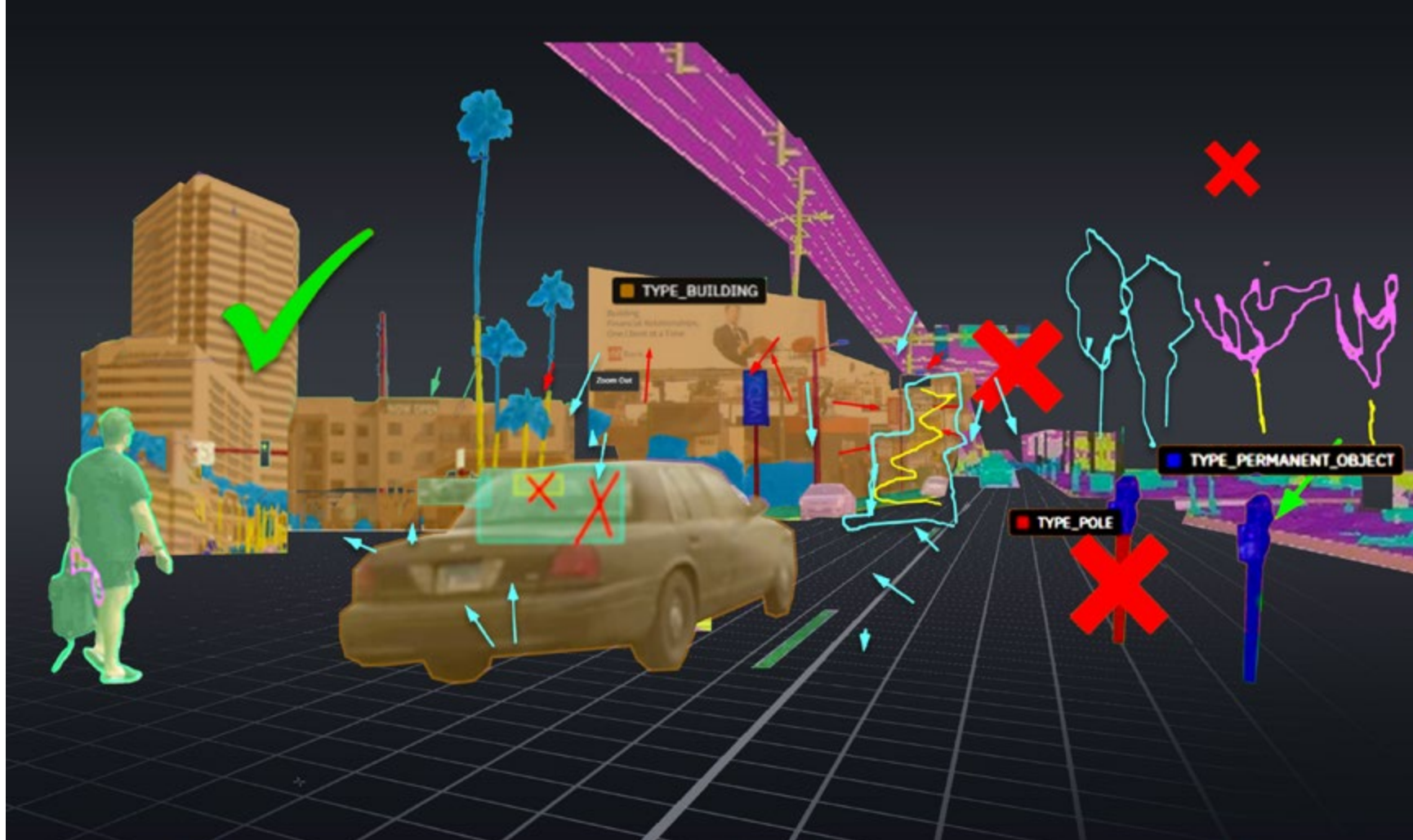*Portfolio*

Nicolas Gourault

Unknown Label

2023

film
CGI, archival footage, smartphone footage,
DCP 4K, format 16:9, 18 min

Against the backdrop of fantasies surrounding supposed AI autonomy, *Unknown Label* recounts the experience of three online micro-workers whose job is to cut up and categorize photographs in order to train autonomous cars how to read our world. This time-consuming work, known as "image segmentation", is outsourced to countries in the Global South where labor costs cheaper. Ivon, in Venezuela, Oliver, in Kenya, and Jonel, in the Philippines, describe their relationship with these images, which depict an idealized Western world from which they are excluded.
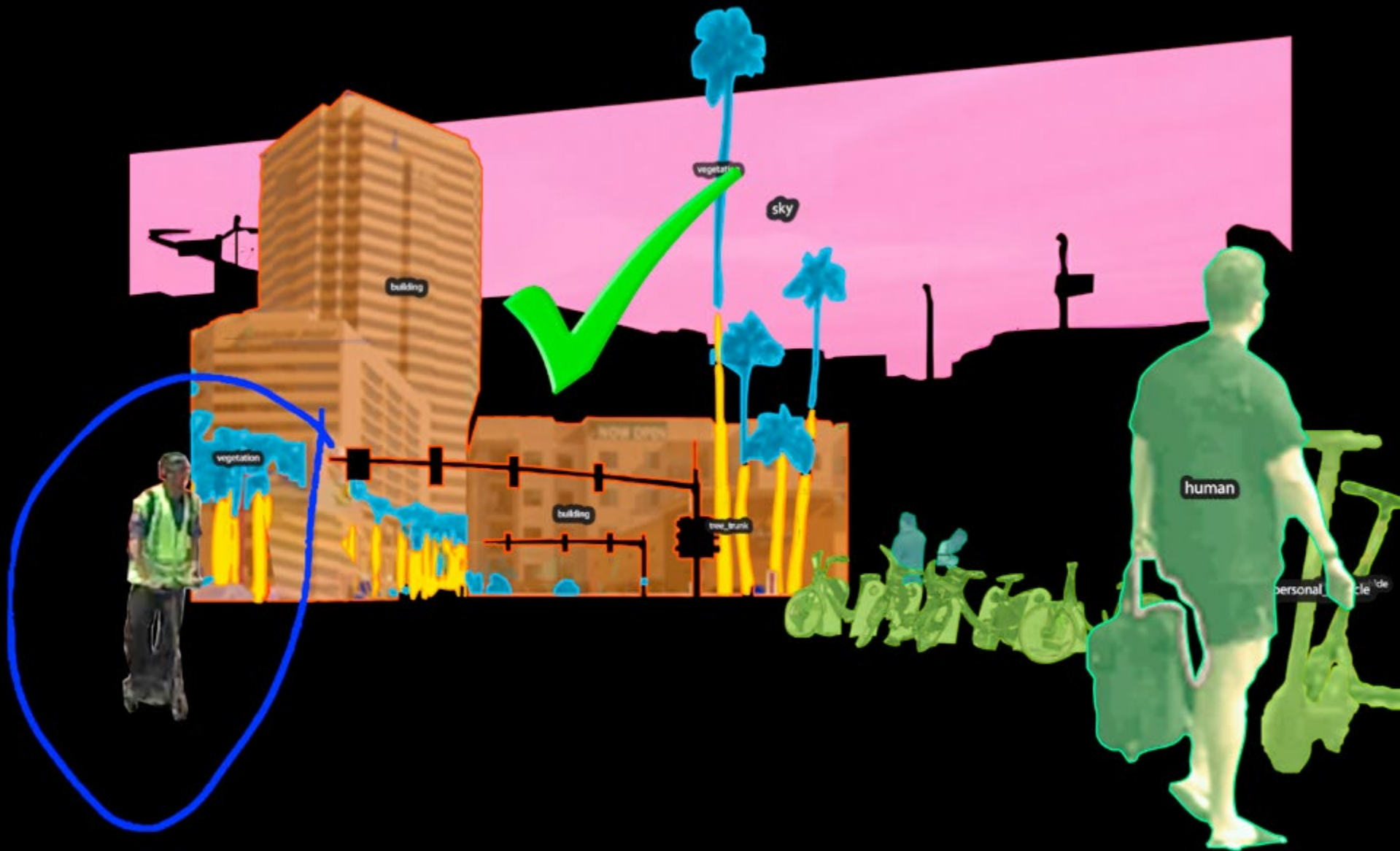
Unknown Label

film | modélisation 3D, images d'archives, prises de vues réelles
DCP 4K, format 16:9, 18 min

Unknown Label

Turba

The same digital tools that allow to create zombie hordes in movies or to train riot police are used to populate digital stadium in advertising. What if these tools were instead used to recreate past events during which the crowd escaped its designated place and became impossible to rule ? *Turba* aims at hijacking a crowd simulation software in order to generate digital riots within ads depicting football stadium. The avatars who make up the digital crowd are inspired by archival footage of actual pitch invasions, a phenomenon which used to be common in the 70s but has become a tabou in today's sports entertainement.

Turba

Real-time generated video installation | Live crowd simulation, found footage, remote PC, raspberry pi,
various screens number, various size, infinite length

Turba

Real-time generated video installation | Live crowd simulation, found footage, remote PC, raspberry pi, various screens number, various size, infinite length

Turba
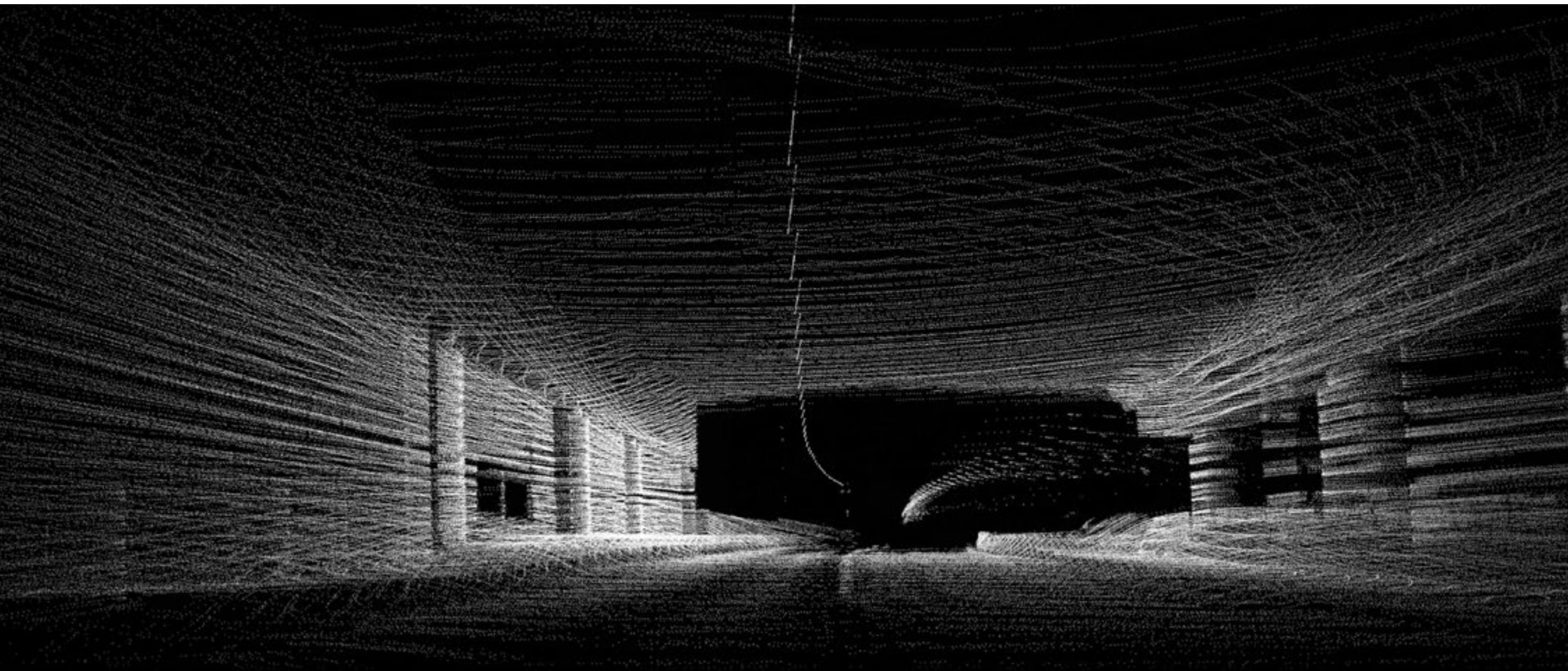
Real-time generated video installation | Live crowd simulation, found footage, remote PC, raspberry pi,
various screens number, various size, infinite length

VO

A deadly accident between a self-driving car and a pedestrian sets off an investigation about the role of human workers in the training of driverless cars. Testimonies from vehicle operators guide us through a night shift where the landscape merges with data from the car's sensors and surveillance devices.

VO

Short film | lidar scans, CGI, found footage,
DCP 4K, format 2,39:1, 20 min

This Means More

2019

*film or dual channel video installation
crowd simulation, 3D modeling, archival footage,
DCP 4K, format 16:9, 22 min*

Images of crowd simulation are faced with testimonies from Liverpool Football Club's supporters who recall their experience marked by a tragic event : the Hillsborough stadium disaster, in 1989, which changed the nature of the game of football.

This Means More

*Short film or dual channel video installation | crowd simulation, 3D modeling, archival footage,
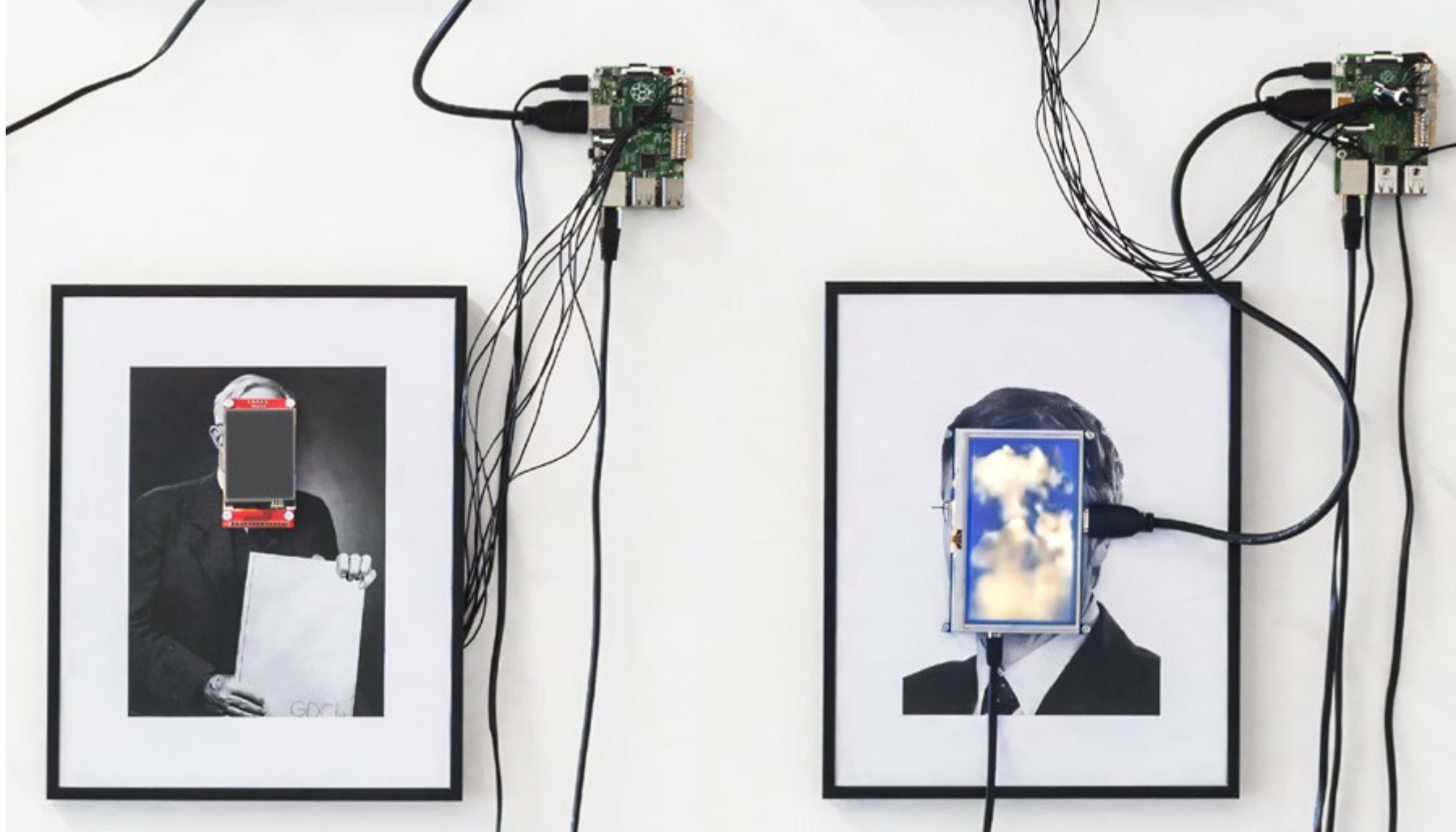DCP 4K, format 16:9, 22 min*

This Means More

Short film or dual channel video installation | crowd simulation, 3D modeling, archival footage, DCP 4K, format 16:9, 22 min

This Means More

Short film or dual channel video installation | crowd simulation, 3D modeling, archival footage, DCP 4K, format 16:9, 22 min

Faces in the Mist

2017

Multimedia installation
software, machine-learning algorithms (openCV, tensorflow),
black & white print, raspberry pi, various size

A misused facial recognition software (based on TensorFlow by Google) is tasked to identify faces in a stream of formless clouds. Its memory is filled with historical characters involved in geoengineering. The bot appropriates a typical human habit, that of making sense of chaos by means of science and imagination. Obsessed with the faces, the pareidolic bot builds up a personal and esoteric hall of fame.
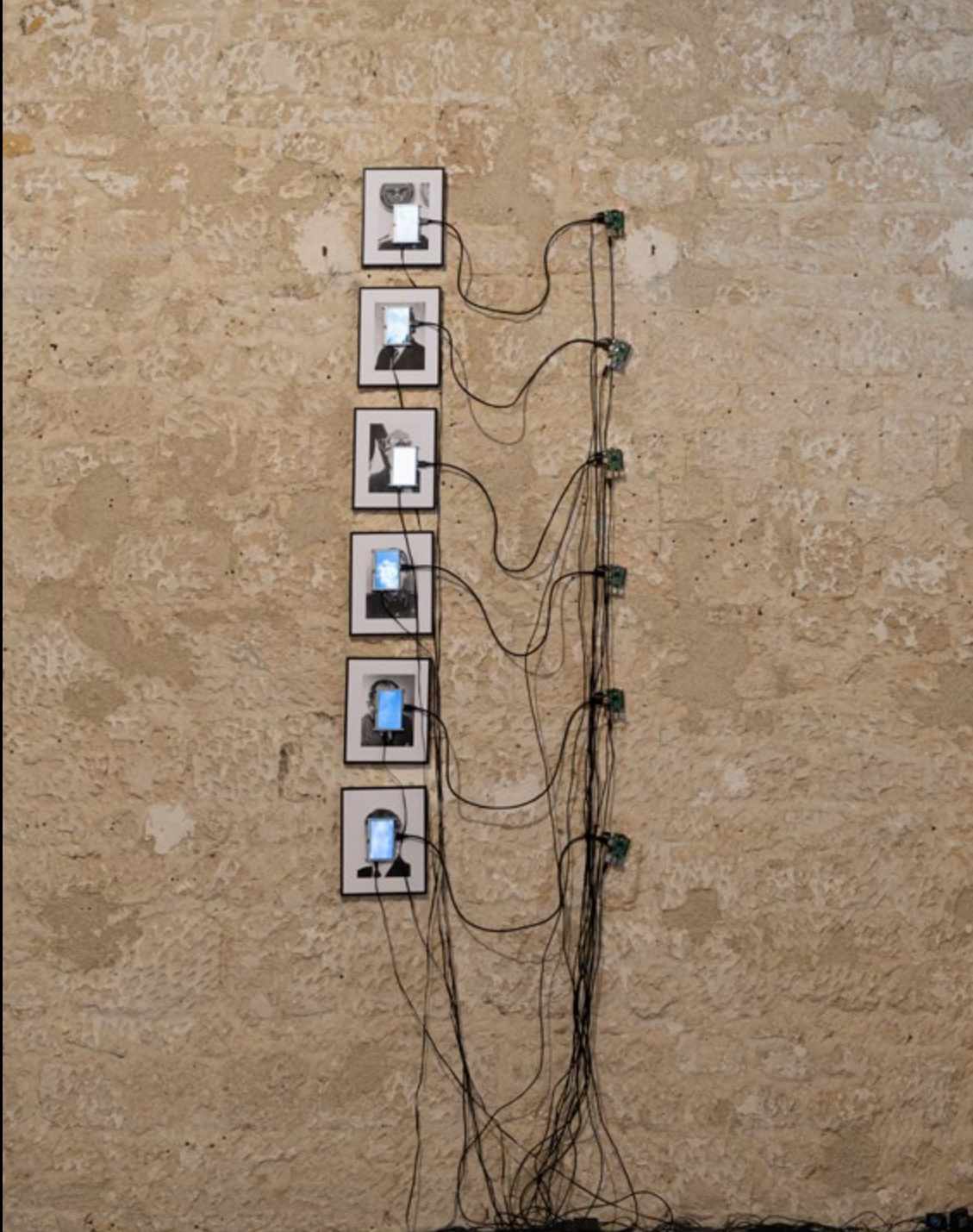
Faces in the Mist

Multimedia installation | software (openCV, tensorflow),
black & white print, raspberry pi, various size

Faces in the Mist

Multimedia installation | software (openCV, tensorflow), black & white print, raspberry pi, various size

Faces in the Mist

*Multimedia installation | software (openCV, tensorflow),
black & white print, raspberry pi, various size*

N4726V

2018

*Real-time generated video
game engine, surround sound and video (loop time : 2h21),
4K, format 2,39:1, infinite length*

The High and the Mighty, a movie released in 1954, featured John Wayne as a charismatic pilot successfully flying his airplane through hazardous events over the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and San Francisco. Ten years later, the same aircraft seen in the movie, N4726V, undertook the same journey and suffered the same hazard, only this time it disappeared over the ocean never to be found. In *N4726V* both events are conflated, the real becomes a remake of the fictional. The movie is spatialized within a 3D model of the missing aircraft. The fiction unfolds while the camera endlessly floats in the virtual reconstruction.

N4726V

Spoglie

2018

video
found footage, full HD, format 16:9, 5 min

In the archeological site of Pompeii which is saturated with visitors, a protocol is set up in order to get rid of the foreign bodies and recover the ideal image of unaltered ruins. The protocol consists of the mishandling of a post-production software routinely used in movies and advertisements to erase the trace of visual elements accidently recorded and considered to spoil the final image. At first, only indirect traces of bodies are left untouched but soon the invisible mass reappears by tearing the images up.

Spoglie

Haptophilia

2016

video
photogrammetry, physics simulation,
full HD, format 2,39:1, 5 min

In her book Penser comme un rat, the belgian philosopher Vincianne Despret raises the issue of animal subjectivity. Building from Jakob von Uexküll's legacy, she describes how rats build up haptic maps out of the environment they share with us which is mainly dedicated to vision. Haptophilia is a filmic interpretation of the small rodents' Umwelt, where touch excesses sight. It is an experiment on the limits of visual perception and the concept of landscape which mixes the codes of cinemascope cinema with the poor images of embedded cameras.
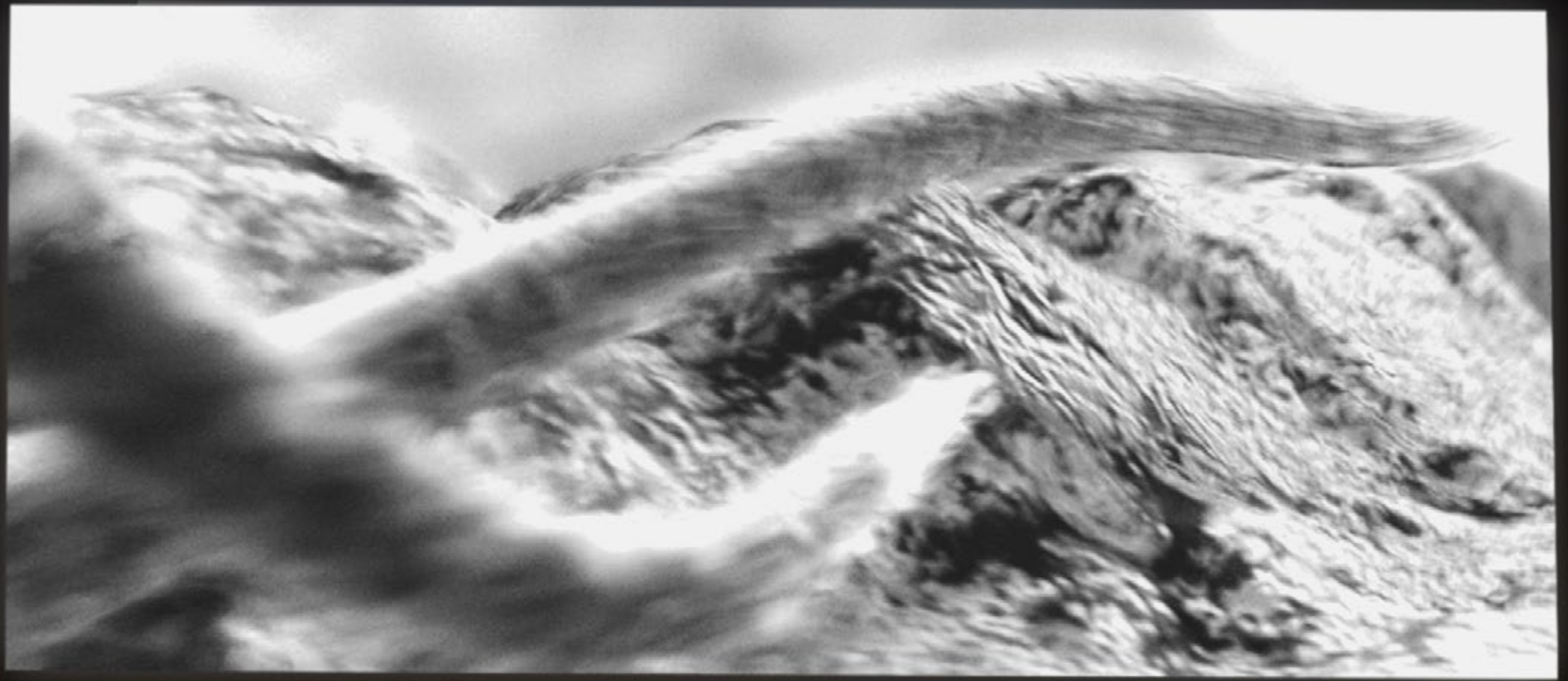
Haptophilia

video | photogrammetry, physics simulation,
full HD, format 2,39:1, 5 min

Owning the Weather

2016

video
CGI, full HD, format 16:9, 6 min

H.A.A.R.P. (High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program) was a research facility studying the ionosphere funded by the U.S. army. Before they ran out, its antennas bombarded the sky with invisible electromagnetic waves between 1993 and 2014. In this place which focused all the attention now remains the sole echo of a military document written in the 90s which fueled paranoia about using the climate as a weapon : Owning the Weather in 2025.

Owning the Weather

Flotation Cushion
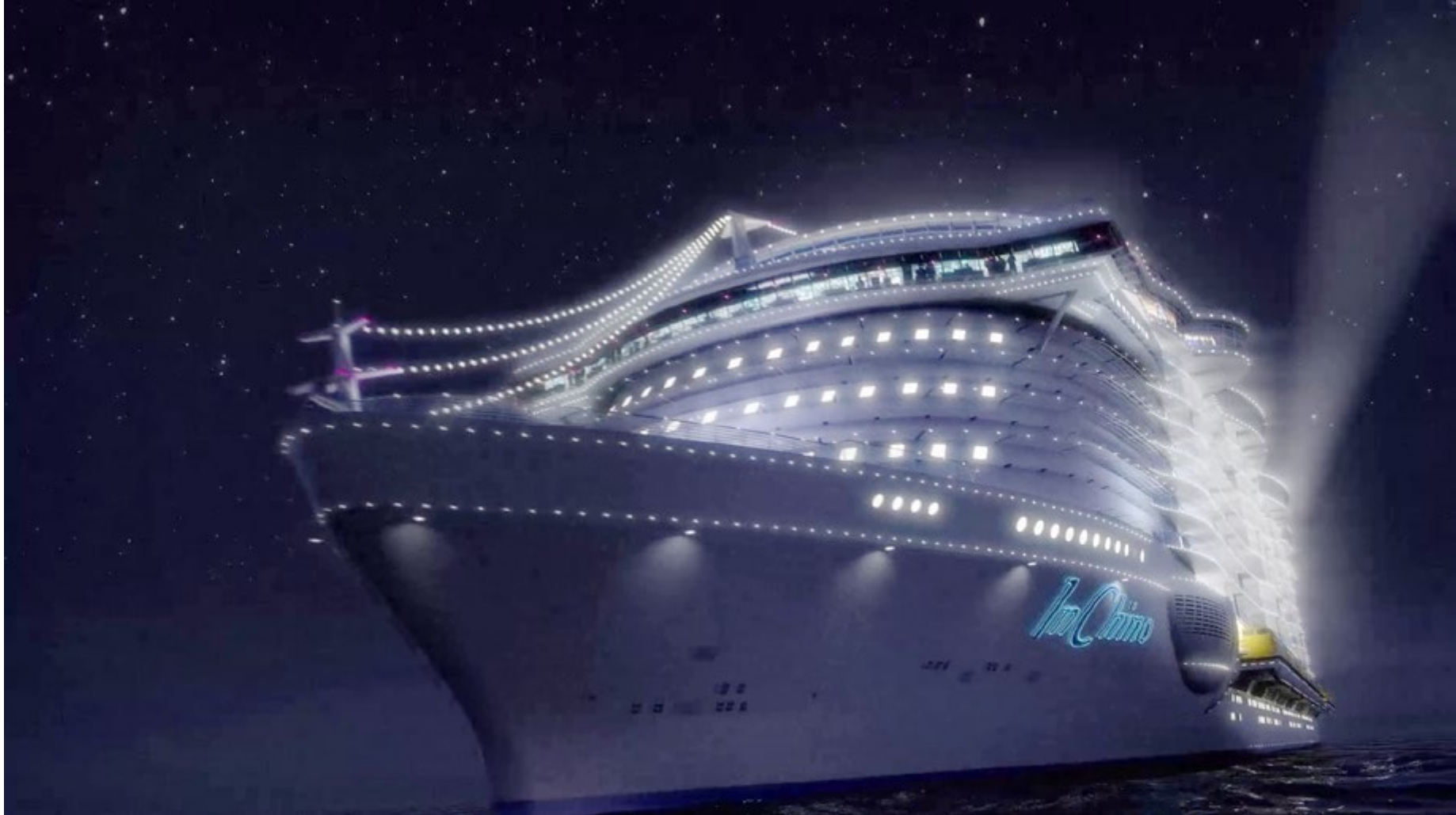
2016

dual channel video
full HD, format 16:9, 3 min

On 8 March 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared while flying over the South China Sea which is a blind spot for air control. Localization by ground radars is impossible over vast area of water. Thus planes are left by themselves while they are flying over the sea. Flotation Cushion confronts these two heterogeneous spaces. A cockpit's confined and measured environment is put next to an open sea that overwhelms the frame. The project of total control seems to face its dark part.

Flotation Cushion

Inchino

2014

video
CGI, full HD, format 16:9, 10 min 40

Inchino, meaning bow in italian, designates a parade maneuver consisting in cruise liners showing off as close to the shore as possible. It is significant of how the subject/object relationship is reversed in the film. If the 1912 iceberg was hazardous because it was drifting away, whereas the Giglio Island's shoreline is perfectly stable and it is the captain who deliberately throws his ship against it thus triggering the tragicomic disaster.

Inchino