

Fig.147 Screenshot showing me filming a newly built citadel in northern Italy. Not only do these modern places become increasingly more institutional but also the filming within them becomes trickier; while they are fully monitored by cameras 24/7, in some cases photography is not even allowed. In these cases surveillance dominates over its citizens.

PLACES 03

As I only film when in a public space, from the beginning I had to determine what I mean for public space. I then started defining it as any place that any citizen can enter without having to ask permission. In this respect I do not film in places where I have to pay a ticket to enter nor in places where I can enter only because I was invited to. Over the years I realized that access to places have been increasingly limited. This is particularly the case when places have been transformed into commercial entities like malls. Overall then this work represents the increasing extinction of public places taken over by commercial enterprises. In this sense all my filming effort can anticipate drastic changes ahead. The powering of these enterprises come with a cost and may trigger wars and natural calamities. It could be that in a more or less near future the gentrification we now experience may be followed by a great recession. As humans might not have the resources necessary to sustain its commercial enterprises, the latter might fall into ruins and the jungle might take them over. In this picture I keep on acting as the children of the forest, roaming around the urban environment and see its transformation into a luxury estate which in the end may give way to yet another abandoned Tivoli.