

Fig.148 Picture showing me filming a public place while living in North America. At that time I still did not make use of a smartphone and had to carry around many more devices like a digital video-camera. It was discreet as it allowed me to flip the screen and look downward rather than than holding it up and irritate those who happen to pass by.

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While on one hand the resulting videos look like surveillance camera footage, they don't seek to record people but the emptiness of public places. Ironically this emptiness is, among all my works, what enables me to re-experience the past. In this respect I find the reviewing of these streams of videos a sad experience reminding me of life experiences that can never return. With time also this emptiness started to become more precious. The cities where I have been living throughout my project have become increasingly overcrowded. Not only the big capital cities but also the little downtown of my native village in the alps is invaded by a flood of tourists aimlessly walking through it. Becoming gentrified it has lost its aura. By now I can walk through the cities of my youth and don't recognize a single face. The overly restored architecture no longer talks to me either. I am one of the many alienated people who has refused to get gentrified. In this respect I came to prefer to be in not so popular destinations were I can still appreciate a level of authenticity. This authenticity is then reflected in the very place I imagine the videos of places to be presented. For this I choose very remote and hard to reach environments as if I am also attempting to protect my project from getting gentrified.