

Fig.150 Screenshot of a video shot in Amsterdam. While I have been progressively moving away from cities, with the years I have seen them radically transformed. While they were not flooded by the expected rise of the sea level but by tourists and later pandemics and more human triggered transformations.

PLACES 06

The big cities in which I have been filming public places are Stockholm, Shanghai, Boston, Venice and Amsterdam. These cities are all near the sea and might one day cease to exist if the water level keeps rising. To some extent this is happening because these cities are no longer linked to their local surroundings and are increasingly relying on what globalization has to bring them. As much as I love cities and their complexities and all the human richness they offer, I have noticed how since the beginning of the project they have turned into black stars; gentrification is spreading out of their centers and removing the life that was so characteristic of them. From centers of life they have turned into open air museums free of any possible contaminant. This sterility has to cope with increasing crises as if these museums cities around the world are preparing to be hospitals for devastating occurrences. The fundamental problem is however that while a ruling class has taken over these cities, a form of tyranny has emerged. This tyranny demands that cities ought to be saved at all costs. If mountains and forests have to be destroyed so as to build enormous dikes all around these cities so as to make sure they survive the very flood they themselves generate, no one is likely to oppose.