

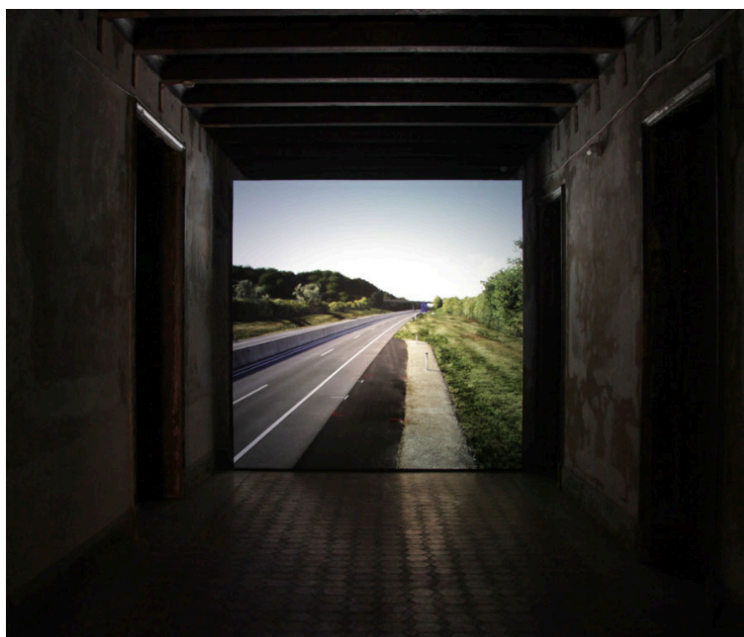
THOMAS DANE GALLERY

Moffitt, Evan. 'Manifesta 12: The Dark Heart of the Biennial Shows Human Suffering Out of Control'. *Frieze Online*. 19 June 2018 [excerpt]

frieze

Manifesta 12: The Dark Heart of the Biennial Shows Human Suffering Out of Control

The central thrust of the exhibition positions Sicily as the fulcrum of geopolitical conflicts over migration, trade, security and surveillance



John Gerrard, *Untitled (near Pandorf, Austria)*, 2018, installation view, Manifesta 12, Palermo; photograph: Wolfgang Träger

In an adjacent room, a newly commissioned simulation by John Gerrard, *Untitled (near Pandorf, Austria)* (2018), is a hauntingly silent investigation into the anonymous places where migrants have died. The 'camera' slowly circles a meticulously rendered scene: the green shoulder of a highway, marked by a rectangular oil stain, its corners eared with red spray-paint. Using digital photographs and satellite imagery, Gerrard recreated the site where, in 2016, police discovered the bodies of 71 migrants packed in an Austrian poultry lorry, where they had suffocated in sweltering summer heat. (The very day the work premiered at Manifesta, the truck's driver and three others were sentenced to 25 years in prison for murder.) The surrounding foliage is too green, the weather sickeningly sunny. The stain would be impossible to notice at Autobahn speeds; it has surely since disappeared. Without monuments, Gerrard suggests, such atrocities can simply be forgotten. How many deaths at sea remain unmarked?

<https://frieze.com/article/manifesta-12-dark-heart-biennial-shows-human-suffering-out-control>

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