

Searle, Adrian. 'Manifesta 12 review – plant sex, puppets and a dial-a-spy booth'. *The Guardian* Online. 20 June 2018 [excerpt]

# The Guardian

## Manifesta 12 review – plant sex, puppets and a dial-a-spy booth



Video: Irish artist John Gerrard discusses his work

The dispassionate approach, the affectless as well as relentless homing in on a subject gives John Gerrard's video simulations their charge. Using online gaming technology, he recreates real places from a few scant images. In an untitled work based on photographs he took near Parndorf, Austria, he has created a seamless simulation of a stretch of motorway. The camera circles the scene, crosses the motorway barrier and hovers over a patch of tarmac and the nondescript roadside vegetation. Here, he located the spot where a truck had been abandoned a few days earlier. It contained the bodies of 71 migrants who had suffocated. Red spray paint on the road, left by the police, marks the spot. The camera goes on circling. No traffic passes, nothing is said nor needs to be.

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2018/jun/20/manifesta-12-review-art-biennale-palermo-video-art-political-statements>