Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Projecting a Modern Mindscape: Subjectivity and the Built Environment in Doug Aitken’s Work

• Author(s) Name:
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• University or Company Affiliation:
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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This paper explores the work of American multimedia artist Doug Aitken, whose use of the moving image and take on modernist architecture enables him to deal with experiences of subjective fragmentation in modernity. Through this study I will demonstrate how Aitken is involved with the affective and utopian aspects of the Modernist project and I will interrogate how these practices engage with the cultural logic of capitalism.

First, I will examine Aitken’s use of spaces of reception and architecture through his installations and projections. This analysis will bring to the fore the space where the encounter between the public and the private takes place, thus communicating spectators a mode of subjectivity that straddles oppositions.
Then I will attend to Aitken’s *The Idea of the West*, an interdisciplinary project where notions and images associated with the city of Los Angeles and its surroundings are explored. Throughout this analysis I will show how *The Idea of the West* addresses the intersection between imagined and experienced spaces in a paradoxical move that both resists and perpetuates the myth of the West as the land of opportunities.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Gracia Ramirez is a scholar and critic based in the UK. She is interested in the intersection between aesthetics and politics and specializes in the history of American experimental and independent cinema. She lectures on visual culture, media technologies and institutions and audience studies at London College of Communications, University of the Arts London. She has written on American landscape and identity, found footage film and collaborates with artists writing texts for exhibition catalogues. She keeps a mixed media art practice and is currently preparing a monograph on the history of the American Film Institute.