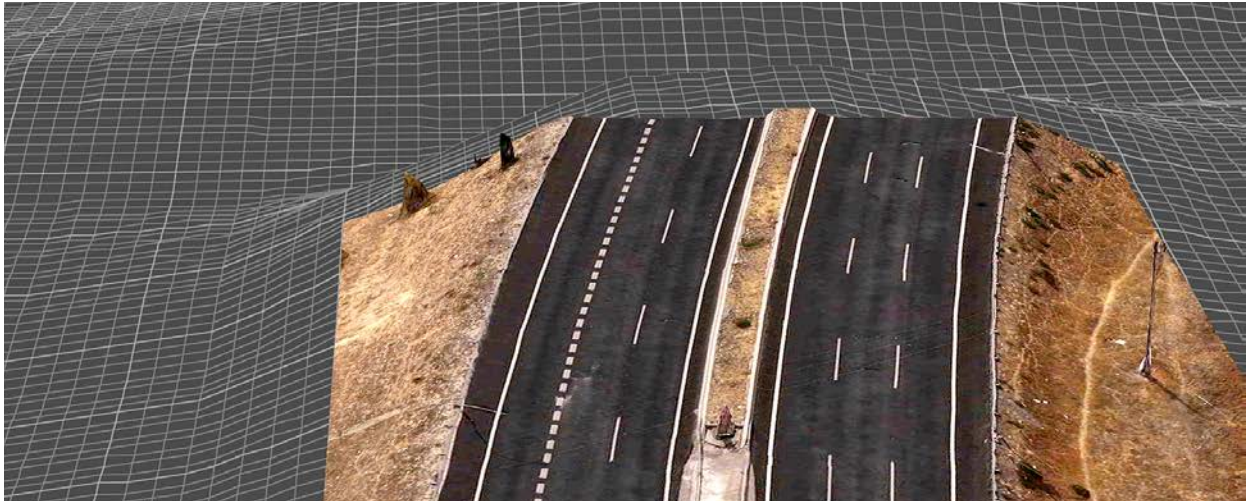


Galería Elba Benítez



EL ULTIMO GRITO

MALFICTIONS

April – June 2017

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to present *MALFICTIONS*, an exhibition of new work by the London-based creative partnership El Ultimo Grito, opening April 22 in Madrid.

MALFICTIONS -- the title is a conflation of the words “malfunction” and “fiction” -- presents a series of works that explore the intersection of facticity, fiction and error in contemporary forms of representational experience. As El Ultimo Grito states:

In our digital age, we have all become accustomed to the growing proliferation of “glitches” — transitory malfunctions within the different systems that support our daily existence. But in reality, these glitches are intrinsic to how the system works — they are not real malfunctions but just ‘deficiencies’ of the system that we have not managed or do not really want to change or improve. The notion of ‘malfunction’ aims at perpetuating the representation / fiction of the system itself -- hence our “Malfictions.” The capturing of the “glitch” is a sudden window opening onto the reality of the system, and when understood in this way we can start examining “glitches” in other systems in the same light -- systems that are not limited to technology, but also politico-socio-economic systems, or systems of representation and communication.

MALFICTIONS consists of three formally independent but conceptually interwoven sections. *TRIGGERED GLITCHES MADRID* offers a series of triptychs developed from glitches in digital mapping devices: these photographic works are not manipulated or collaged but rather a real depiction of digital reality that records

and reveals mapping applications as covert operations aimed at maintaining the 'fictional' status of the system itself. *THE FALLACY OF THE CLOSED SYSTEM* is a diorama-like installation that incorporates a large glass model, landscape tables and a kinetic lighting system in order to explore ingrained representations of cities as perfectly closed systems and as physical manifestations of the organization of society as a whole: the fallacy of these closed systems is at the core of current-day entropic models such as Brexit, America First and other manifestations of the intent to preserve or recover systems of idealised pasts that in fact never worked in the first place. *LA RÉALITÉ SOIT TROP COMPLEXE POUR LA TRANSMISSION ORALE* consists of a series of real-time, pre-cinematic *camerae obscurae* that at first glance resemble looped films but which in fact are neither celluloid nor digital, leading the viewer to a paradoxical, oscillatory understanding of that which is being directly experienced.

Founded in 1997, El Ultimo Grito is composed of Roberto Feo and Rosario Hurtado. Highly acclaimed for its production in the realm of design, today the work of El Ultimo Grito's spans multiple disciplines, contexts and media – including installations, objects, films, performances and publications, as well as curatorial, editorial and academic projects – producing work that responds to an ongoing investigation into the nature and representation of systems.

El Ultimo Grito has had solo exhibitions at the Halle Verrière (Miesenthal, 2016), fig-2 ICA (London, 2015), the Rice Gallery (Houston, 2014) and La Casa Encendida (Madrid, 2007), as well as having participated in numerous groups shows including at the Museum of Modern Art (New York, 2007), the Victoria & Albert Museum (London, 2015), LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial (Gijón, 2009) and the 10th Gwangju Biennale (2014). The work of El Ultimo Grito forms part of the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Victoria & Albert Museum Collection (London), the Museum of Art and Design (New York), the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), the Israel Museum (Jerusalem) and the Shanghai Museum of Glass. In 2012 El Ultimo Grito was awarded the prestigious London Gold Design Medal acknowledging their contribution to design in the United Kingdom. Independent of their collaborative work, Roberto Feo is Professor of Practice at Goldsmiths University of London and Rosario Hurtado is Professor of Programme in Space and Communication at HEAD Genève.

MALFICTIONS is El Ultimo Grito's second exhibition at the Galería Elba Benítez.