

“Spit Tea Place Cup Schizo-Feedback Walk”

—a collaboration between Justin Hoover and Tra Bouscaren.

This video splices together a pair of 2017 speculative performance and video actions produced in the Digital Art Research Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Triangulating issues of balance, surveillance, and spectacle, this work explores the struggle to maintain personal balance within the storm of surveillance and spectacle in contemporary culture.

The performer spits water into teacups, places them sequentially on the floor before him, attempting to use the full teacups as stepping stones to traverse the floor, without touching it, amidst a storm of interactive feedback generated algorithmically from multiple live surveillance feeds, mashed up in real time with demolition footage.

Bios:

Justin Charles Hoover (胡智騰) works with time-based visual arts, community engagement and collective social actions. As a Chinese-Russian-American, Hoover tells old stories in new ways, looking at issues of displacement, language failure, and cultural disjuncture. Hoover's work has been featured at the Sculpture Quadrenniale in Riga, the Venice Architecture Biennale, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the ICA in Portland, Oregon, the Art Life Festival in Guangzhou, China and the Werkstattkino in Munich, Germany.

Tra Bouscaren is a post-disciplinary artist working at the intersection of sculpture and algorithmically generated, multi-channel video. Trained in Philosophy and Art at Yale and Penn, he is finishing a PhD in Media Study at Buffalo. His work has been exhibited at the Museum für Naturkunde of Berlin, the Centre Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, the Fort Mason Center for Art and Culture in San Francisco, the Annenberg Center for Performing Arts in Philadelphia, and Lincoln Center in New York. Bouscaren has been represented by N2 Gallery in Barcelona since 2008.