

THEREDOOM



Håkan Dahlström, SOLSTICES, Full HD Video, Length 15', 2015

A solar thermal plant can be seen in many ways, but it is often perceived as a landscape-distorting element that offers environmental, economic and social benefits. Having said that, if we consider that we also can see it as a light sculpture of enormous proportions, our perception of it will be a very different one. The new landscapes that have emerged because of our need of renewable energies have been considered by different conservationist organizations to be irreversibly annihilated landscapes, in other words the back side, the price we have to pay to stop climate change.

Håkan went to one of these solar plants and immediately saw it as a light sculpture because he had been studying the endless possibilities of light (natural and artificial) since the beginning of the seventies and creating light sculpture using crystals, different kinds of glass and mirrors to interact with rays of light. He then started to work using his knowledge and previous experience on this subject to make a video at the solar plant. To that end he collected a large amount of material; filmed at all hours of the day and night in order to carefully observe, to research the plant's scientific and astronomic characteristics, etc. That is how, little by little, he came to know its most hidden artistic values, let's say, "it's intimacy". He then discovered that although he had a very valuable material, obtained during different times of the year, the most surprising images appeared during the winter and summer solstices.

Solstices shows us an unknown landscape in which I think it important to remind us of the use of the mirror in the history of Literature and Art; it's symbolic, metaphorical and ritual power, etc. and to value that never before has it been used in such a scale, in such magnitude.

The video can be considered in the strictest sense of the word, a revelation. It is disturbing in the same way as are the times we live in, but working there in that landscape together, the two of us during these years, especially during solstices, made us feel that the unrest provoked by different difficult episodes impossible to go into here, led to a work of art who's inherent message on the one side is of hope and the other of warning.

The sculpture is situated near the Guadamar River that forms a corridor of high ecological value joining the Sierra Morena and The Doñana Natural Park, allowing for species to interchange between these territories. We also wanted to give this new sculpture the same standing and category as The Park naming it "Guadamar Mirror Park" to evoke it as a work of art and at the same time, distinguish it from its function as solar plant and from other now existing or future ones.

The video was made between 2011 and 2014 with the help of the prestigious Swedish filmmaker Gunvor Nelson, who has collaborated as advising editor. We dedicate this work to her, to whom the Pompidou, Moma and The Tate Modern have already dedicated great retrospectives. Finally I want to thank Perico Simón and THEREDOOM Gallery for believing in this work from the start for its presentation in Madrid.

Benito Fernández Fontanillas

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