

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

Dylan Hewson
KEYFRAMES

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Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm Thursday,
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

STRAY VOLTAGE

Dylan Hewson

KEYFRAMES

Dylan Hewson,
Keyframes,
2022, video.

Keyframes is a collection of photographic work drawn from Google Street View over past ten years. It originated as part of an ongoing investigation into the aesthetic and conceptual potential of automatic, algorithmically-generated imagery as a framing strategy to inform the artist's traditional photographic practice. It has since developed into a parallel exploration of the experience of alienation and dislocation in lived American urban landscapes, from the 2008 recession to the present day, post-COVID international housing crisis.

DYLAN HEWSON is an artist and librarian based in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. His practice responds to ideological and technological concerns about ongoing, accelerating trends in the international sociopolitical landscape and how they manifest in the collective visual language of digital media.

STRAY VOLTAGE presents a discursive program of critically engaged moving image works focusing on experimental narrative-driven practice. Led by Katie Paine, Oliver Hull and Aaron Rees. STRAY VOLTAGE is supported by the City of Melbourne 2022 Annual Arts Grants Program.

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Keyframes

In digital animation, keyframes mark points between which individual motions are simulated. Traditionally, each frame in a cartoon or special effects shot was created by hand, the whole action realized as part of the craft process. With the introduction of computer-generated imagery, only specific frames representing beginning and end points of movement needed to be created by the artist, with the movement in-between instead being algorithmically-generated – or simulated – by software. I recently became aware of this distinction in the context of a discussion about the difference between traditional, analogue special effects and more modern computer-general imagery. The author attributed complaints about the ‘fakeness’ of CGI – even comparatively advanced CGI – compared with traditional specific effects to the presence of keyframes, and to the detectable presence of the hand of the machine in the finished work. Algorithms play an increasing and more visible presence in the construction of visual imagery generally, but they represent only a more advanced manifestation of the disconnect, the atomisation, latent in the process of the machine-generation of imagery that has been present since the introduction of photography.

This innate disconnect, which mechanically separates artist from subject, has been a motivating factor behind the amount of time I’ve spent exploring Google Street View over the previous decade. The physical world is photographed automatically, haphazardly and segment-by-segment, and is then reconstituted by algorithms into a virtual space. Key focal points are vaguely determined by both presets programmed remotely by technicians and the acumen of hired drivers local to the area. The space in-between is then filled in by algorithms trained, presumably, on a similarly immense system of data-validation to the one used by the corporation to deliver the person information of its user base to advertisers. The void between concrete actions performed by human beings becomes entrancingly vast in this environment.

On the real world

In our country, the waste by-products of neoliberalism and economic crises are kept out of view in remote communities, fringe suburbs of major cities, and in country towns with disappearing economies. In America, which has always had a less extensive and more fragile welfare state than comparable developed countries, the manifestations of its population’s collective immiseration by foreign economic forces have been correspondingly more visible. The development of the interstate highway system in the postwar period, in conjunction with racially-discriminatory housing policy, left many (if not most) major cities in the US with hollowed-out urban cores. Deindustrialisation and economic restructuring in the 1960s and ‘70s magnified this corrosion in many cities. From the 1980s to the present day, gentrification – combined with the roll-back of the social contract - has had the effect of displacing both the social and economic issues created earlier and the people affected by them. The economic crisis of 2008 and the housing crisis that emerged in 2020 - which has only deepened since – have only sharpened and metastasized these pre-existing issues. This is peculiarly visible in the United States, though these same issues extend not only across much of the developed world, but also into a substantial number of developing countries.

Street View

The Danish photographer Jacob Holdt, whose work is a significant personal and artistic influence, spent much of the seventies living an itinerant lifestyle, hitchhiking across the US and surviving only on charity and on selling blood plasma (the proceeds from which he would use to buy film). He would spend time living, eating, drinking and sleeping with people living on the fringes of American society – people he described as the underclass.

A certain level of detachment – of atomization – seems to be inherent in this kind of photography. Dorothea Lange's interaction with Florence Owens Thomas as a human was fleeting in comparison to the eventual fame produced by the meeting between subject and artist. Holdt, by virtue of his lifestyle, was forced to move from place to place, forming and abandoning relationships as he went. His work during the 1970s could be considered a documentation of the atomization of human relations under the weight of oppressive social and economic conditions. When he returned to Denmark – and to a comfortable middle-class life – the disconnect was complete.

More recent artists have at least attempted to be honest about the gulf that exists between us and our photographic subject. With Street View, this is a given. If I capture an image of someone on it, I have very little means to contact them or even find out who they are. More often, the temptation is to avoid individuals and capture only the built (or natural) environment, which feels mostly indifferent to me as an artist and which is made more indifferent by the manner in which it is constituted by the platform – automatically, algorithmically, the closest human hand belonging to the private contractor driving the car which transports the camera. The corporation itself, and its motivations behind funding the project, exist at another level of abstraction, and seem to me to be impenetrable.

Street View is dressed in a brand-patina that can be quickly removed, the machine-generated – or reconstituted – world then unearthed open to exploration, its unique constraints providing for new approaches to composition. In a way, this window into a disinterested landscape continues to feel to me both relevant – hyperreal, almost – and overcome by ongoing developments in technology and the outside world. The damage done to society by the international economic crisis in 2008 has been amplified by the effects of the pandemic, the lives of individuals and the shifting built environments they attempt to exist within manipulated further by other artificial distortions of the property market. But the internet has shrunk since 2008, with algorithms being used to lock users into smaller and more personalized chambers of endless content consumption, its capacity to enable connections between individuals rotting in parallel with the growth of dead links to vanished addresses. Compared to the window into the world provided by most social media apps, the open-endedness of Google Earth feels freer, almost quaint, and its possibilities for better understanding the world out of step with the current design philosophy of the machine.

Unplaces

The images I've taken from Street View since 2012 have been posted regularly to a blog on Tumblr – *Unplaces* – with little in the way of curation or exposition. Titles have a tendency to feed into the marketing of works of art, with or without the direct input of the artist, and in this case it may be necessary to emphasize the distinction between the two. The term *Unplaces* refers less to the content of the images or my intentions in creating them than to unrelated discussions in my honours thesis that I've most forgotten about. A combination of its own distinctiveness and years of consistent posting, and a very gradual development of an audience on that platform, has led to it being identified with the work I post there.

Tumblr provides an opportunity to show work to an audience of thousands, many of whom are not necessarily already part of the art world, and for the audience to incorporate my work into their own digital space and provide instant feedback. In practice, the commentary these images receive is often brief and very personal – people who live near the locations in the images express their feelings about them, about nostalgia the images trigger or memories they have of the general area. The work is posted alphabetically and goes through cyclical phases covering specific geographic areas, with micro-communities forming in response from users with common interests – creative, personal or critical – related to those locations. Occasionally, users will express their view as to whether the place represented is or isn't an *Unplace*. I think it's probably better to adopt the term as something closer to golden seal, a guarantee of value or originality. Mark E. Smith once said "if it's me and your granny on bongos, it's The Fall." Something similar could be said about *Unplaces*.

Dylan Hewson, April 2024

<http://unplaces.tumblr.com>

Work

1. 24th Street, Birmingham Alabama (2) (2020)
2. Wood Street, Oakland, California (7) (2022)
3. Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama (2) (2023)
4. Cherry Street, Brooklyn, New York (1) (2022)
5. NY 104, Niagara Falls, New York (2) (2024)
6. NY 104, Niagara Falls, New York (1) (2024)
7. Rock Street, Rockford, Illinois (2023)
8. Lee Highway, Knoxville, Tennessee (1) (2019)
9. Winston Street, Los Angeles, California (1) (2022)
10. Wood Street, Oakland, California (10) (2022)
11. Platt Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (3) (2021)
12. Dexter Avenue, Detroit, Michigan (1) (2021)
13. Golden State Boulevard, Fresno, California (4) (2023)
14. Border Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2022)
15. San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, California (2) (2019)
16. Fifth Avenue, Oakland, California (4) (2022)
17. Harper Avenue, Detroit, Michigan (2021)
18. Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (10) (2022)
19. Elderwood Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio (5) (2022)
20. Holmur Street, Detroit, Michigan (1) (2021)
21. Breezewood Road, Breezewood, Pennsylvania (5) (2022)
22. SE Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri (2) (2022)
23. Mitchell Street, Knoxville, Tennessee (2022)
24. 3rd Street N, Birmingham, Alabama (2023)
25. Dr Charles Brimm Boulevard, Camden, New Jersey (3) (2024)
26. S Wilson Avenue, Prichard, Alabama (7) (2023)
27. Wood Street, Oakland, California (2) (2022)
28. Cass Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (3) (2021)
29. US-20, Gary, Indiana (2) (2021)
30. H Street, Fresno, California (3) (2020)
31. Avenue C, Newark, New Jersey (2018)
32. Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (3) (2022)
33. S Bruce Street, Baltimore, Maryland (3) (2021)
34. N Harris Drive, Mesa, Arizona (2) (2023)
35. Commerce Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (2022)
36. Beach Channel Drive, Far Rockaway, New York (2023)
37. Dr Charles Brimm Boulevard, Camden, New Jersey (4) (2024)
38. N Taylor Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (3) (2021)
39. Wood Street, Oakland, California (11) (2022)
40. Northfield Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio (2) (2021)
41. Glenn Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia (2021)
42. Wood Street, Oakland, California (6) (2022)
43. Golden State Boulevard, Fresno, California (15) (2023)
44. Coombs Street, Dallas, Texas (4) (2023)
45. S Willow Avenue, Fresno, California (5) (2023)
46. Golden State Boulevard, Fresno, California (17) (2023)
47. Murl Street, New Orleans, Louisiana (4) (2019)
48. Norton Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri (2022)
49. Dr Charles Brimm Boulevard, Camden, New Jersey (10) (2024)
50. W Colvin Street, Syracuse, New York (4) (2022)
51. Maple Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (1) (2021)
52. Ellsworth Street, Gary, Indiana (2) (2021)
53. Beaubien Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan (2) (2022)
54. Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Far Rockaway, New York (2) (2023)
55. MA-28, Brockton, Massachusetts (2022)
56. Coombs Street, Dallas, Texas (2) (2023)
57. 2nd Avenue N, Birmingham, Alabama (2) (2023)
58. Platt Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (6) (2021)
59. Platt Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (4) (2021)
60. Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (9) (2022)
61. Willow Street, Jackson, Mississippi (3) (2021)
62. Grafton Street, Brockton, Massachusetts (1) (2022)
63. Niagara Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York (1) (2024)
64. Coke Street, Louisville, Kentucky (2) (2021)
65. Al Lipscomb Way, Dallas, Texas (9) (2023)
66. NE 1st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (2) (2016)
67. Vanderbilt Road, Birmingham, Alabama (1) (2018)
68. 24th Street, Birmingham, Alabama (9) (2023)
69. 24th Street, Birmingham, Alabama (12) (2023)
70. Ruby H Harper Boulevard SE, Atlanta, Georgia (2021)
71. Radner Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2022)
72. 36th Place, Meridian, Mississippi (3) (2021)
73. W Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi (5) (2021)
74. Linden Avenue, Clairton, Pennsylvania (2022)
75. W 15th Avenue, Homestead, Pennsylvania (3) (2022)
76. S Breezewood Road, Breezewood, Pennsylvania (2) (2022)
77. W 2nd Place, Gary, Indiana (1) (2021)
78. Wymore Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio (3) (2021).
79. Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (7) (2022)
80. Meyers Street, Dallas, Texas (7) (2022)
81. Al Lipscomb Way, Dallas, Texas (3) (2023)
82. E Independence Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma (2020)
83. Crutcher Street, Nashville, Tennessee (2017)
84. Golden State Boulevard, Fresno, California (6) (2023)
85. Platt Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (1) (2021)

86. Wilkinson Street, Montgomery, Alabama (1) (2023)
87. Jefferson Street, Brooklyn, Illinois (2) (2019)
88. Northgate Drive, Montgomery, Alabama (1) (2018)
89. Rosa L Parks Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama (16) (2023)
90. S Wilson Avenue, Prichard, Alabama (5) (2023)
91. US-301, Rocky Mount, North Carolina (3) (2023)
92. Pelham Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia (3) (2020)
93. Edgemere Avenue, Far Rockaway, New York (3) (2023)
94. Rolling Acres Mall, Akron, Ohio (1) (2020)
95. Dr M R Lemons Boulevard, East St. Louis, Illinois (1) (2023)
96. Sweet Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey (3) (2023)
97. US-20 Business, Mishawaka, Indiana (1) (2023)
98. Avery Street, Detroit, Michigan (2022)
99. 6th Avenue SE, Decatur, Alabama (2) (2023)
100. E 26th Avenue, Gary, Indiana (2022)
101. St Stephens Road, Mobile, Alabama (3) (2023)
102. Converse Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois (4) (2023)
103. Ohio Street, Detroit (3) (2021)
104. W Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi (4) (2021)
105. Ridge Avenue, Clairton, Pennsylvania (1) (2022)
106. Hyena Way, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2022)
107. Detroit Avenue, Russellville, Arkansas (6) (2021)
108. E 34 Street, Kansas City, Missouri (2) (2022)
109. W Courtland Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (3) (2019)
110. Van Buren Street, Gary, Indiana (6) (2020)
111. Stanton Street, Detroit, Michigan (4) (2022)
112. Johnston Street, Akron, Ohio (1) (2022)
113. Dexter Avenue, Detroit, Michigan (2) (2022)
114. 12th Street S, Birmingham, Alabama (2022)
115. Huntsville Road, Birmingham, Alabama (2023)
116. Colvin Street, Syracuse, New York (1) (2022)
117. Webb Street, Detroit, Michigan (2) (2021)
118. Kaighn Avenue, Camden, New Jersey (7) (2024)
119. TN-1, Nashville, Tennessee (1) (2022)
120. Kaighn Avenue, Camden, New Jersey (5) (2024)
121. Gamble Street, St. Louis, Missouri (2022)
122. Hower Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (2) (2021)
123. Monroe Street, Cincinnati, Ohio (2019)
124. Virginia Street, Newark, New Jersey (2) (2020)
125. 4th Street N, Birmingham, Alabama (1) (2023)
126. 35th Avenue N, Birmingham, Alabama (3) (2020)
127. Courtland Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2) (2019)
128. W Pascagoula Street, Jackson, Mississippi (2) (2021)
129. E 115th Street, East Cleveland, Ohio (2022)
130. Johnston Street, Akron, Ohio (2022)
131. Van Buren Street, Gary, Indiana (2020)
132. W Edsel Ford Service Drive, Detroit, Michigan (1) (2022)
133. Hower Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (4) (2021)
134. 24th Street N, Birmingham, Alabama (5) (2023)
135. Spruce Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri (4) (2022)
136. Vernon Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (3) (2021)
137. Evans Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (1) (2021)
138. Monroe Street, St. Louis, Missouri (2) (2021)
139. N Garland Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio (2022)
140. 24th Street N, Birmingham, Alabama (8) (2023)
141. Rochester Street, Detroit, Michigan (4) (2022)
142. Ohio Street, Detroit, Michigan (4) (2021)
143. Wicks Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (4) (2021)
144. Webb Street, Detroit, Michigan (6) (2021)
145. Northfield Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio (5) (2022)
146. 24th Street N, Birmingham, Alabama (15) (2023)
147. E 30th Street, Kansas City, Missouri (5) (2022)
148. Rolling Acres Mall, Akron, Ohio (6) (2020)
149. Fuller Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri (2022)
150. Vernon Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (7) (2021)
151. Rochester Street, Detroit, Michigan (3) (2022)
152. Washington Avenue, Braddock, Pennsylvania (2) (2022)
153. Ford Place, Memphis, Tennessee (3) (2021)
154. Bear Valley Avenue, Clairton, Pennsylvania (2) (2022)
155. Stone Boulevard, Omaha, Nebraska (2021)
156. N Taylor Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (1) (2021)
157. Stanton Street, Detroit, Michigan (3) (2022)
158. Capers Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi (2) (2021)
159. Lincoln Highway, Breezewood, Pennsylvania (2022)
160. SE 15th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (2018)
161. Willow Street, Jackson, Mississippi (1) (2021)
162. N 6th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (2) (2022)
163. Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2022)
164. Belle Plain Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado (2019)
165. K Street, Tulare, California (3) (2023)
166. McKnight Street, Humboldt, Tennessee (1) (2022)
167. Bossier Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana (2019)
168. Mobile Street, Montgomery, Alabama (3) (2023)
169. E Main Street, Prichard, Alabama (1) (2016)
170. Oleander Drive, Gulfport, Mississippi (1) (2022)
171. 33rd Street, Galveston, Texas (2021)
172. Vernon Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri (5) (2021)
173. E 30th Street, Kansas City, Missouri (1) (2022)

174. Sarsfield Street, Detroit, Michigan (4) (2022)
175. Dr Martin Luther King Drive, St. Louis, Missouri (2) (2021)
176. S 8th Street, Camden, New Jersey (2) (2020)
177. Ford Place, Memphis, Tennessee (3) (2021)
178. Ford Place, Memphis, Tennessee (4) (2021)
179. Merchant Street, Ambridge, Pennsylvania (1) (2022)
180. Hanging Rock Highway, Logan, West Virginia (14) (2021)
181. Curtiss Street, Buffalo, New York (1) (2022)
182. Noble Street, Gary, Indiana (2020)
183. Rolling Acres Mall, Akron, Ohio (3) (2020)
184. Old US Highway 61, Alligator, Mississippi (3) (2019)
185. E Main Street, Coahoma, Mississippi (2015)
186. B Street, Staplehurst, Nebraska (3) (2018)
187. Converse Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois (1) (2023)
188. US-460, Grundy, Virginia (8) (2022)
189. Hanging Rock Highway, Logan, West Virginia (3) (2021)
190. E 34 Street, Kansas City, Missouri (1) (2022)
191. IL-3, Venice, Illinois (4) (2019)
192. Indiana Avenue, Detroit, Michigan (5) (2021)
193. Burt Road, Detroit, Michigan (3) (2022)
194. Hower Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (5) (2021)
195. Webb Street, Detroit, Michigan (3) (2021)
196. Templeton Road, Birmingham, Alabama (2022)
197. Idaho Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas (4) (2019)
198. Concord Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1) (2022)
199. Dinwiddie Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2016)
200. Hanging Rock Highway, Logan, West Virginia (12) (2021)
201. Lawton Road, Olive Hill, Kentucky (5) (2020)
202. US-460, Big Rock, Virginia (6) (2022)
203. Gastineau Avenue, Juneau, Alaska (1) (2023)
204. Golden Eagle Boulevard, Lewes, Delaware (2022)