

«Watching The World, The Encyclopedia Of The Now»

by

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aw School of
Engineering

The world is being photographed now,
this very moment.



Abstract:

"WATCHING THE WORLD, The Encyclopedia Of The Now"

This is an **art**, a **photography**, an **exhibition**, an **AI**, a **Big Data**, an **online** project and uses only Open Data sources for this purpose.

Network cameras (webcams, surveillance, security and IP cameras) are constantly photographing what is happening and feeding the images live into the web.

The web is a camera, an incredibly huge camera. The world puts itself in the picture; perhaps entirely in the sense of the established practices of self-observation for purposes of self-optimisation.

However, net cameras are not only the eyes of the web; they work as extensions of our bodies. Because by means of the cameras, we look through the web, back at the real world, at ourselves.

Our project photographs around the clock and around the globe the world in live mode by means of publicly accessible network cameras, presents the images simultaneously on the [website](#) in different modes and, with the help of AI, develops a new way of seeing, a new kind of photography.

Abstract:

Thousands of netcams are recorded in our system new ones are added every day. The algorithms download approximately **half a million images** from the web per day.

The images are analysed by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and archived in our memories for 48 hours before they will be overwritten by the following ones.

Using features, the simultaneous views of the world can be **curated** by viewers and used in their own way.

New **features** are continuously being developed and added to our website.



Features:

>LIVE

The main page shows randomly selected nine live images at a time.

They are refreshed every nine seconds.

>Click a pic.

>PAST HOURS

The archive of this cam is displayed here. The photographs taken in the last few hours are stitched together and displayed as a block of images.

>> **Left** click: **BIG PICTURE**

The clicked single picture is displayed in original size.

>>**Right** click: **SIMILAR PICTURES**

Now 9 images classified by the AI as "similar" - in relation to the image selected earlier - are displayed.

>AIRPORTS >ANIMALS >BEACHES >BIKES.....

With these buttons the images can be assigned to the appropriate categories. The AI analyzes and selects (including interesting errors). If you click again, the corresponding cam archive (>PAST HOURS) will be called again.

>STREAMS

Here the corresponding categories are shown as single image - streams. (Best experience on a big screen)

The Main Page:



LIVE

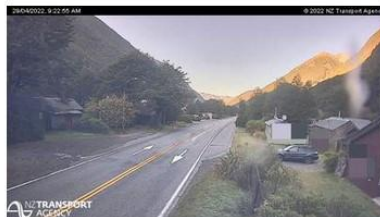
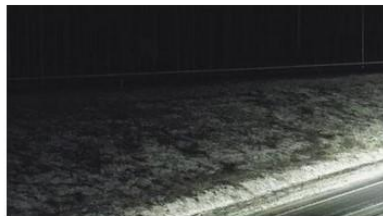
The world at this very moment (9 out of 10725 online cams)

- >> LIVE
- >> STREAMS ▶
- > UKRAINE
- > RUSSIA

- AIRPORTS
- ANIMALS
- BEACHES
- BIKES
- BRIDGES
- BLACK SPOTS
- BOATS
- CARS
- CLICKED
- CORRIDORS
- DEAD CAMS
- EDITORS' CHOICE



ABOUT



Past Hours:

KURT CAVIEZEL + zh
School of Architecture

>> LIVE
>> STREAMS ▶
> UKRAINE
> RUSSIA

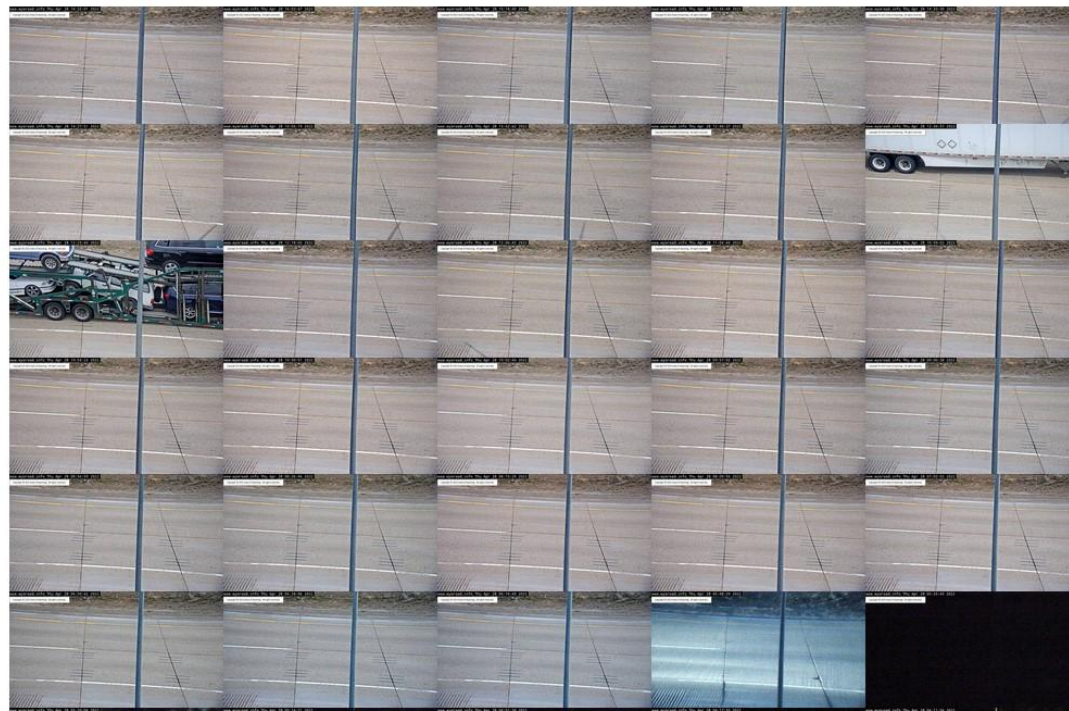
AIRPORTS
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ABOUT



PAST HOURS



Abstract:



The network cameras look at public as well as at private spheres.

The fact that different cultures value privacy differently is just one of the insights we may gain.

What is seen in the pictures, determines the world and at the same time is in the eye of the beholder.

This can be **provocative**.

Go **live**

and watch
the real
cctv-view
on our **lives:**

webcamaze.engineering.zhaw.ch



Team: **Watching The World,** The Encyclopedia Of The Now

Kurt Caviezel:
Artist, based in Zürich

**ZHAW, Zurich University of Applied
Sciences:**

Exhibitions (excerpt):

- International Center of Photography (ICP),
New York (USA)
- Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain,
Paris (F)
- Rencontres d'Arles Photographie,
Arles (F)
- Fotostiftung Schweiz, **Winterthur** (CH)
- Museum of Photography, **Lianzhou** (China)
- Foto Colectania, **Barcelona** (ESP)
- NRW Forum, **Düsseldorf** (DE)

School of Engineering:

(IDP), Institute of Data Analysis and
Process Design

- Dr. Helmut Grabner,
Senior Lecturer
- Fitim Abdullahu,
Scientific assistant

«Watching The World, The Encyclopedia Of The Now»
at the **Museum:**

Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum, Chengdu (China)

Exhibition: Building Illusions

Curators: Duan Yuting, Hu Ruohao

Date: December 4, 2021-February 28, 2022

Venue: Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum Central Plaza And Hall B

Host: Sanlian Life Media Co., Ltd.

Co-organizer: Chengdu Media Group, Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum

Organizer: Lianzhou Foto Festival

Supporter:

The People's Government of Jinniu District, Chengdu
Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council

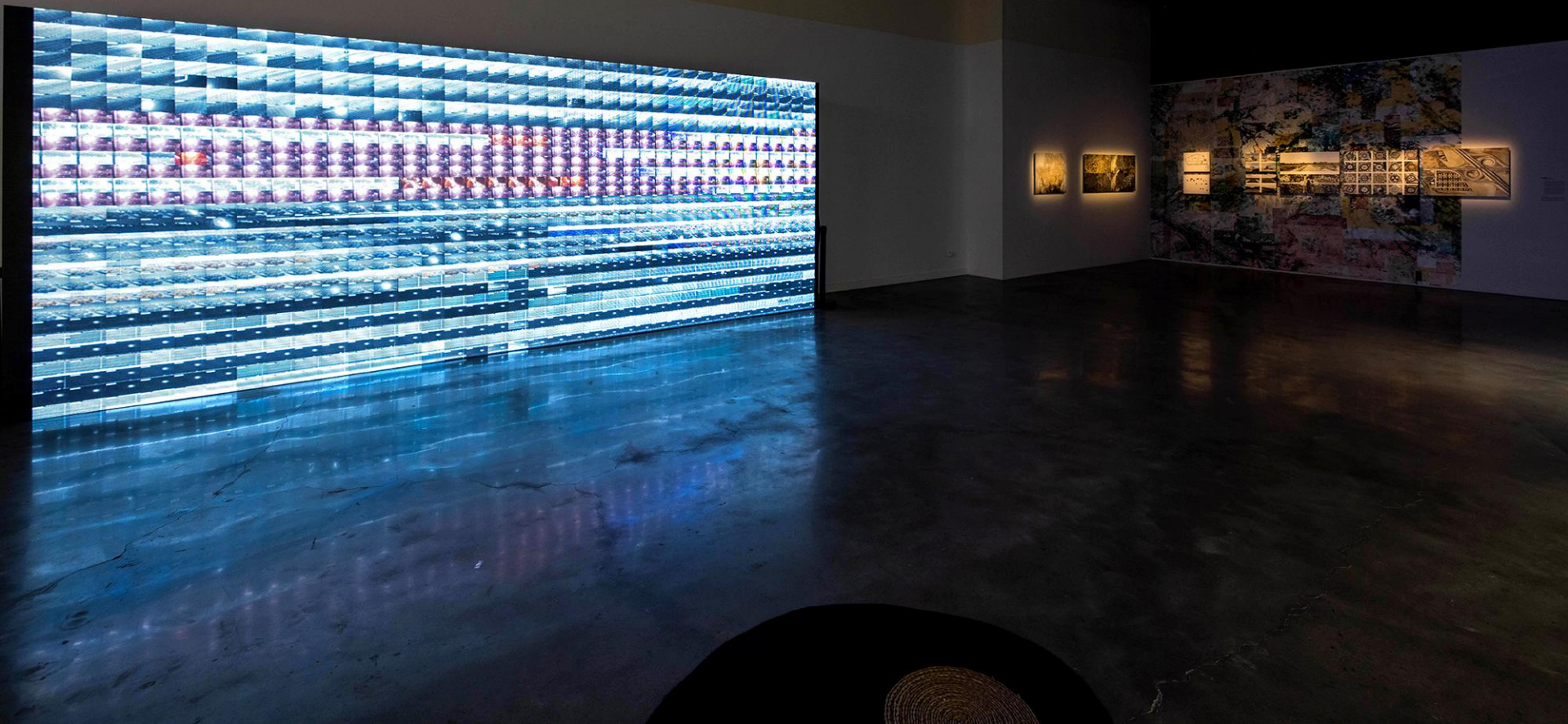
Exhibition view:

Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum, Chengdu (China), «BUILDING ILLUSIONS», 2022



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Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum, Chengdu (China), «BUILDING ILLUSIONS», 2022



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Press reviews:

Read the reviews:

[Le Figaro](#), France, (fr)

[Le Temps](#), Switzerland, (fr)

[Pro Helvetia](#), on “Building Illusions”, (en)

Watching The World can be:

- a permanently changing exhibition
- an AI adventure
- a research tool on sociological, ecological, political, philosophical, legal, artistic and all kinds of aspects of practices of photography
- the biggest camera in the world
- a pattern generator
- a Big- and Open-Data project
- a reportage
- a television
- a surveillance vehicle
- a cabinet of curiosities
- an image floodgate
- a data collector
- an encyclopedia of the now.....etcetera.....

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The World

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