



JG

David Horvitz
The Submersion of Images

15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023

Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*

Jean-Kenta Gauthier

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David Horvitz

The Submersion of Images

This project is about erasure. Memory. Forgetting. Data. Archives. Etcetera.

(David Horvitz)

Presented from 15 October 2022 to 21 January 2023 at the Jean-Kenta Gauthier / Vaugirard gallery, *The Submersion of Images* brings together all the manifestations of the *Nostalgia* project initiated since 2018 by David Horvitz (born in Los Angeles, where he currently lives and works) and whose title refers to the film (*nostalgia*) made in 1971 by the American director and photographer Hollis Frampton (1936-1984). The exhibition is open to the public for 16,380 minutes, resulting in the projection and erasure of 16,380 photographs taken by David Horvitz since the early 2000s. The exhibition is accompanied by *Nostalgia 3*, a book published by Edition Taube (Munich and Zurich) and Gato Negro (Mexico City).

“In 2018, in a culture over-inundated and amassed with photographs (mostly digital) and with eroded attention spans, I decided to start erasing my photo archive. This erasure became an artwork. I titled it Nostalgia”, David Horvitz writes. The title of the exhibition “The Submersion of Images” sums up the artist’s observation. In a world where images are accumulating, mostly of digital origin, and where storage of this data even raises environmental issues, destruction of these photographs is an act of resistance.

The title of the exhibition also echoes *La Subversion des images* [The Subversion Of Images], a small group of photographs made at the end of the 1920s by the Brussels surrealist Paul Nougé (1895-1967), whose dreamlike and imaginary dimension seemed to break the banality of reality. A century later, the technological revolution has allowed an extraordinary accumulation of often ordinary images which, crushed by their sheer number, seem to drown among themselves. A century later, David Horvitz turns the surrealist proposition on its head and turns the erasure of his often ordinary images into a disruptive act that breaks the banality of our domestic use of photography.

15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023

Jean-Kenta Gauthier Vaugirard
4, rue de la Procession

Wednesday - Saturday, 2 - 7 PM

From 15 October 2022 to 21 January 2023, with the exhibition open to the public for 16,380 minutes, 16,380 photographs from David Horvitz's archive are each projected on a large scale in the gallery for 1 minute before being subsequently erased. "*I chose 1 minute because it is a simple unit of time. And even though it is only a short moment, our attention span is so eroded by the accelerated culture that spending a minute looking at an image, especially a banal one, seems like a very long time,*" says Horvitz. Each photograph is thus shown for the last time, with or without a witness, and the archive slowly fades away. If the last minute of the image is akin to a farewell ceremony before its disappearance, it seems to be the visual counterpart of the minute of silence, a ritual which is observed following a disappearance. David Horvitz's insistence on the intensity of a duration is reminiscent of many other projects made over the past decade, such as posters that define the rhythm of a clock (*Proposals For Clocks*, 2016), or his digital clocks that slow down time while falling asleep.

The *Nostalgia* project is also accompanied by a series of texts collected for the first time in (*nostalgia*) (Gato Negro, Mexico, 2019), an artist's book by David Horvitz in which each page presents a short sentence describing a photograph that has been erased. Each sentence, similar to a prose poem, is accompanied by a date and a file name. Coinciding with the exhibition *The Submersion of Images*, the third volume of David Horvitz's *Nostalgia* is published, a book containing 300 descriptions of photographs that have not yet been erased before the opening. In this way, the book's status changes through the course of the exhibition, from programme to memory.

The exhibition also presents a selection of texts pasted on the walls, descriptions of photographs that each evoke issues of memory, presence in the world, and the artist's trace, which by the end of the exhibition will have been erased.

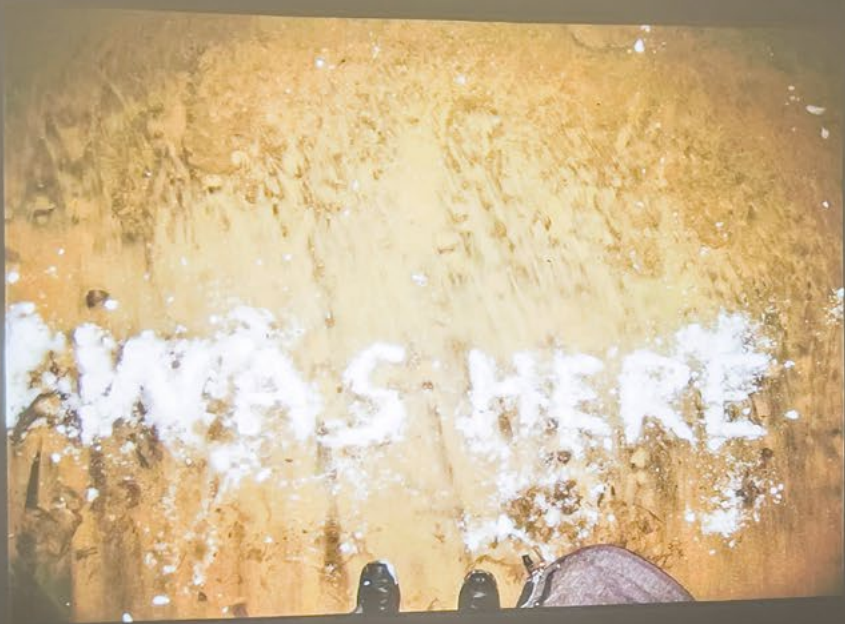
In 1971, the American director and photographer Hollis Frampton (1936-1984) made (*nostalgia*), an experimental film, one of seven elements that made up his *Hapax Legomena* or "(things) having been said once". In it, Frampton stages a succession of small silver prints of his own photographs, each visible for about a minute, which are gradually burnt on a baking tray while information about the image is narrated by the Canadian artist Michael Snow. Playing with an effect of suspense, Frampton orchestrates the disappearance of his images while insisting on descriptions that may also remain in the viewer's memory.

With his *Nostalgia*, David Horvitz is doing something similar. Except that once his files have been deleted, he can no longer access an original negative.

But one can always photograph the projection, and then create a memory of Horvitz's images in another archive.

Jean-Kenta Gauthier, October 2022

Installation views



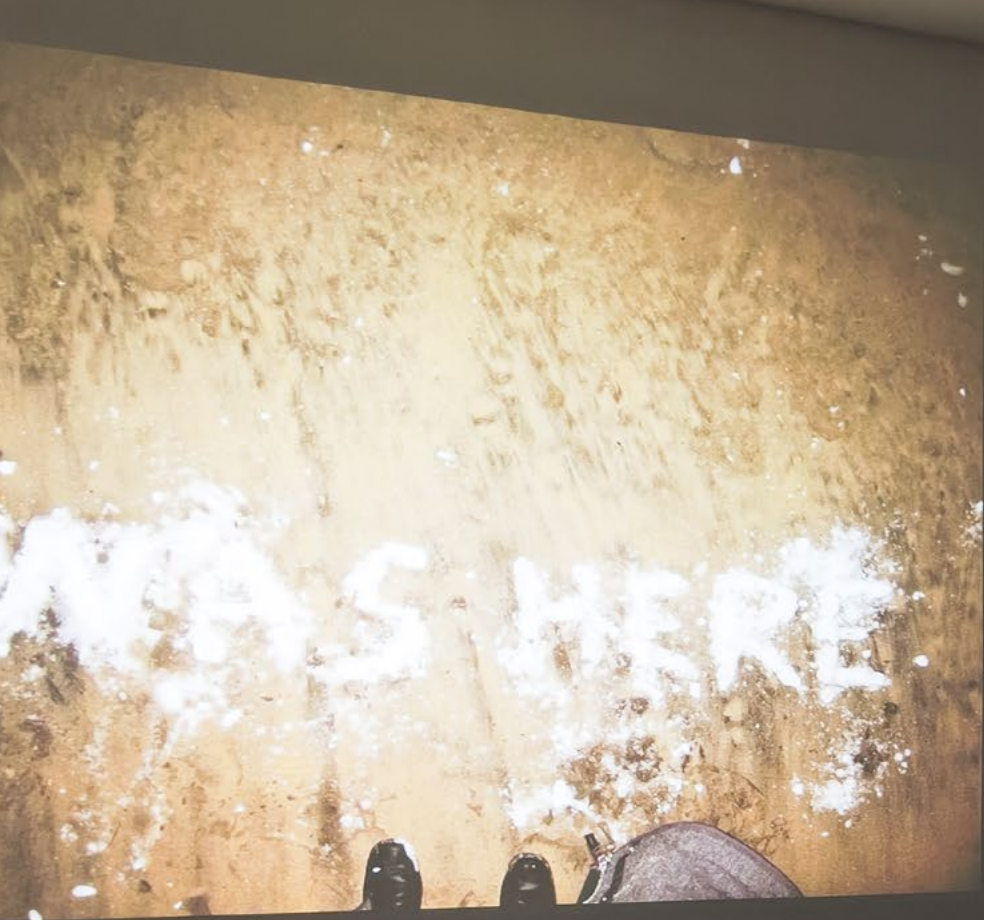
Moon

2/22/2008 10:36 PM IMG_1500.JPG

Written with snow
on the sand of a beach:
I WAS HERE.

2/22/2008 10:36 PM IMG_1500.JPG

David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023
Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



Moon.

3.24.2007 8.06 PM 1462522.JPG

David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023
Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023
Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris

Written with snow
on the sand of a beach:
I WAS HERE.

A photograph
about 28 y

2/22/2008 10:36 PM IMG_1500.JPG

4/24/2016

now
a beach:

A photograph of an On Kawara painting
about 28 years after it was painted.

IMG_1500.JPG

4/24/2016

11:31 AM

IMG_0789.JPG

Written with snow
on the sand of a beach:
I WAS HERE.

2/22/2008 10:36 PM IMG_1500.JPG

A photograph of an On Kawara painting
about 28 years after it was painted.

4/23/2016 11:31 AM IMG_0789.JPG



David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023
Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



David Horvitz, *La Submersion des images*
15 octobre 2022 - 21 janvier 2023
Vue d'installation (détail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



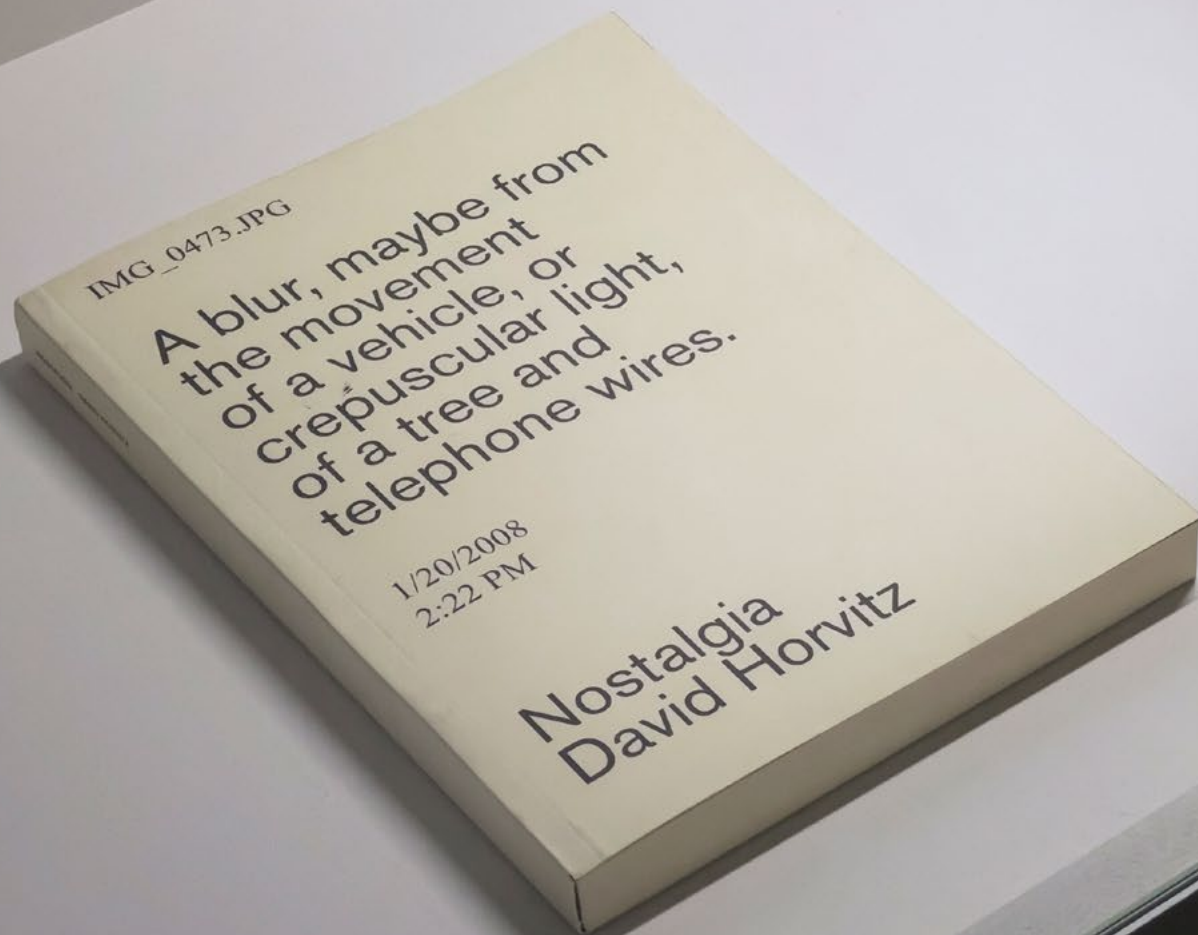
Since the early 2000's I have been making daily photographs with digital cameras. Some of these are visual notes, some are drafts for future works, some are actual works, some are personal moments I wanted to capture as image memories for the future, some are small little things that catch my eye (the light on water, a certain kind of overcast sky, a morning glory in the beginning of the day, the distance), and some I can't remember why I bothered to photograph. I have begun to slowly erase this archive of thousands of digital images. I make one small print and permanently delete the digital file. The collection of photographs in this book are made from these prints, the only traces of the now deleted files.

David Horvitz

David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*

15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023

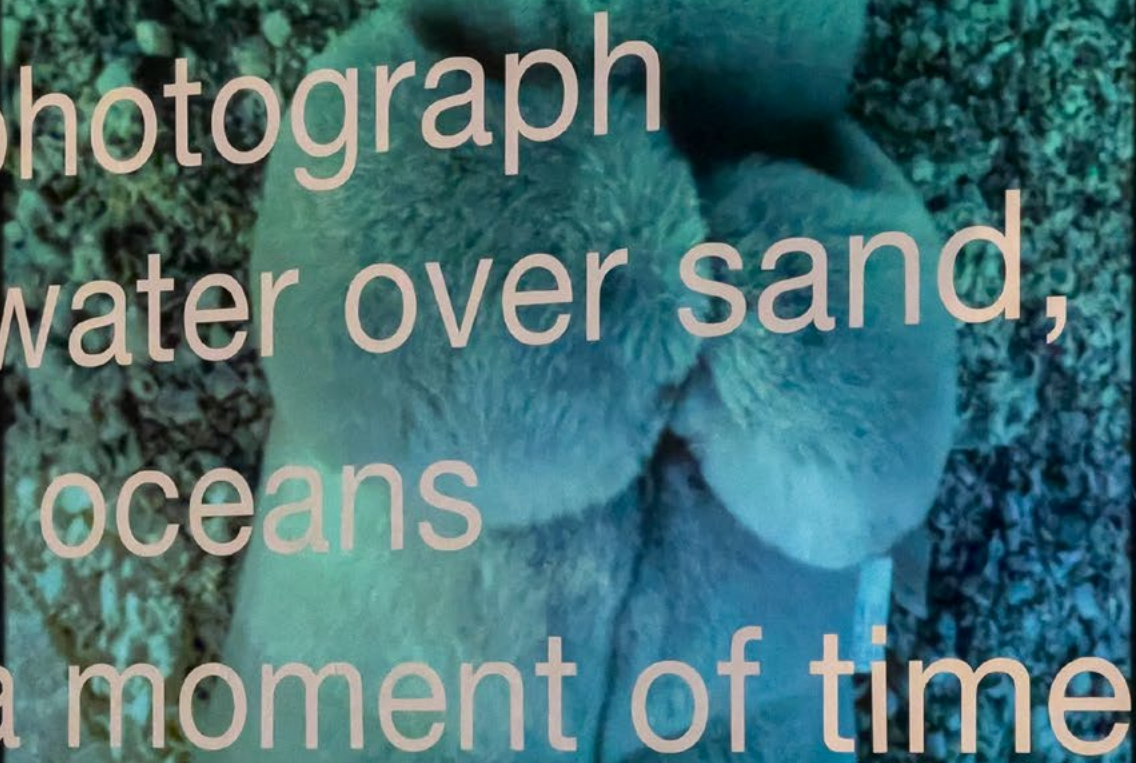
Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
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Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris



David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*
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Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris

A photograph of water over sand, the oceans in a moment of time. The image is a close-up, high-contrast shot of water droplets or ripples on a sandy surface, creating a complex, organic pattern of light and shadow. The colors are predominantly blue and white, with some darker, shadowed areas. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

A photograph
of water over sand,
the oceans
in a moment of time.

5/17/2016

5.53 PM

IMG 1631.JPG

David Horvitz, *The Submersion of Images*

15 October 2022 - 21 January 2023

Installation view (detail), Jean-Kenta Gauthier *Vaugirard*, Paris

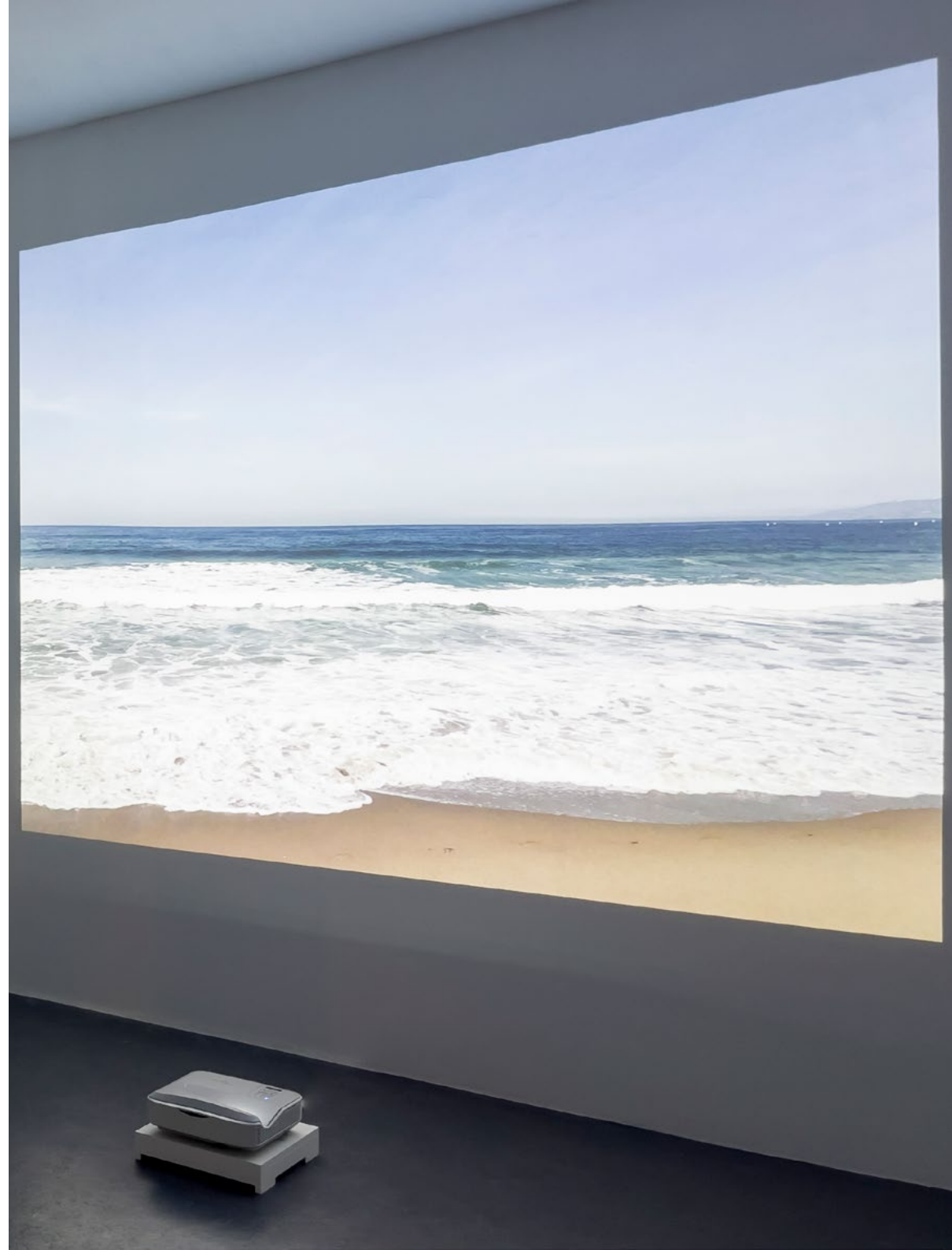
Works

David Horvitz
Nostalgia (16,380), 2022-2023

16,380 photographs from David Horvitz's personal digital archive, exhibited at the Jean-Kenta Gauthier Gallery in Paris from 15 October 2022 to 21 January 2023, and erased.

Certificate produced and signed by the artist at the end of the exhibition

Unique



David Horvitz

Moon. 3/24/2007, 8:06 PM, Img_2522.Jpg

2022

Unique, with certificate and watercolor sent to the buyer by mail

Moon.

3-24-2007

8:06 PM

IMG_2522.JPG

"This sentence is a caption of a photograph that no longer exists.

This sentence can be installed with any technique.

This sentence can be installed with any typeface.

This phrase can be installed in any size."

(David Horvitz)

David Horvitz

Written With Snow on the Sand of a Beach: I Was Here. 2/22/2008, 10:36 PM, *Img_1500.Jpg*

2022

Unique, with certificate and watercolor sent to the buyer by mail

Written with snow
on the sand of a beach:
I WAS HERE.

2/22/2008

10:36 PM

IMG_1500.JPG

“This sentence is a caption of a photograph that no longer exists.

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(David Horvitz)

David Horvitz

A Photograph of an on Kawara Painting About 28 Years After It Was Painted. 4/24/2016, 11:31 Am, Img_0789.Jpg
2022

Unique, with certificate and watercolor sent to the buyer by mail

A photograph of an On Kawara painting
about 28 years after it was painted.

4/24/2016 11:31 AM IMG_0789.JPG

“This sentence is a caption of a photograph that no longer exists.
This sentence can be installed with any technique.
This sentence can be installed with any typeface.
This phrase can be installed in any size.”

(David Horvitz)

David Horvitz

A Photograph of Water Over Sand, the Oceans in a Moment of Time. 5/15/2016, 5:53 PM, Img_1631.Jpg

2022

Unique, with certificate and watercolor sent to the buyer by mail

A photograph
of water over sand,
the oceans
in a moment of time.

5/17/2016 5:53 PM IMG_1631.JPG

“This sentence is a caption of a photograph that no longer exists.

This sentence can be installed with any technique.

This sentence can be installed with any typeface.

This phrase can be installed in any size.”

(David Horvitz)



David Horvitz
Nostalgia (x), 2022-2023

Set of photographs from David Horvitz's personal digital archive, which the buyer agrees to delete once the images have been viewed.

Any number of photographs, with a minimum of 1440 (number of minutes in a day).

Files on USB key, with certificate

Unique

JKG

Jean-Kenta Gauthier