

FUJI spaces and other places

FUJI spaces and other places is a procedural year-long artwork in which images of Mount Fuji are collected from live web broadcasts as it changes over the course of a year. The live-feeds are processed and composite into a durational piece available to view online. The work examines the way we perceive spatiotemporal changes when experienced through a digital medium using an immortal icon such as the Fuji Mountain.

The work engage viewers with a physical site without actually being there. As we increasingly mediate our experience of remoteness through technology, we might consider the relationship and the relationship gaps between digital signals and the actual physical source. The Internet and web cameras allow experience to span space, time and scale. By expanding locality, in content and in form, *FUJI spaces and other places* confronts the ways in which advancing technology alters our perception of reality.

FUJI spaces and other places appropriates images of Mount Fuji from ten existing web cameras, which are orchestrated, composite, and then broadcasted back to the Internet in real-time.

The composition results from the conditions of the web-cameras (resolution, size, availability), the light and weather condition (day/night, months, seasons) and a custom made software, which conducts each camera as an instrument. Throughout the year, and on a monthly basis, the software generates a score, which forms a composition, while viewers witness the process as it evolves towards its completion.

The end result is a real-time visual processing available to view as the work unfolds and experienced over time. Past instances of the work are also available, as well as instances since its start date on January 1st 2010.

The work examines distance in terms of location — *adoring beauty from afar*. It conveys mediated understanding of authentic distance, to space and to conventions of perception - observing nature, from access to distant locations, to sacred sites and sacred icons, as means of introspection.

The gaze towards landscapes, as known to us via visual authorships, is mediated here through telematic communications, expanding on locality in terms of distance (geographic; time and space) as well as culturally. The access to the physical real as well as to cultures is no longer bounded to a community by its physical location. The work thus suggests access to a place in which one is not necessarily *present* — an ideal place, utopian in concept. One that is adored yet is not visited in the physical realm. An “almost place” that which could never be realized.

The overwhelming immediacy and delirious variety of live broadcasts available today via the Internet, as well as the incitement to communicate with distant but real subjects, alter our experience of space, even that mediated space already consumed inseparably through its images. In *FUJI spaces and other places*, the real place and the displaced image are indivisible as it is experienced in real-time. Thus the iconic subject as such is never, and has never been, that coveted real.

FUJI spaces and other places is a *Turbulence.org* commission funded by the Jerome Foundation. It could be viewed live on this URL:
<http://turbulence.org/Works/FUJI/player/>