

## Constant Dullaart

Like the work of his digital native peers, Constant Dullaart's often conceptual work manifests itself both online and off. Within his practice, he reflects on the broad cultural and social effects of communication and image processing technologies while critically engaging the power structures of mega corporations that dramatically influence our worldview through the internet. He examines the boundaries of manipulating Google, Facebook and Instagram and started his own tech company Dulltech™ with Kickstarter.

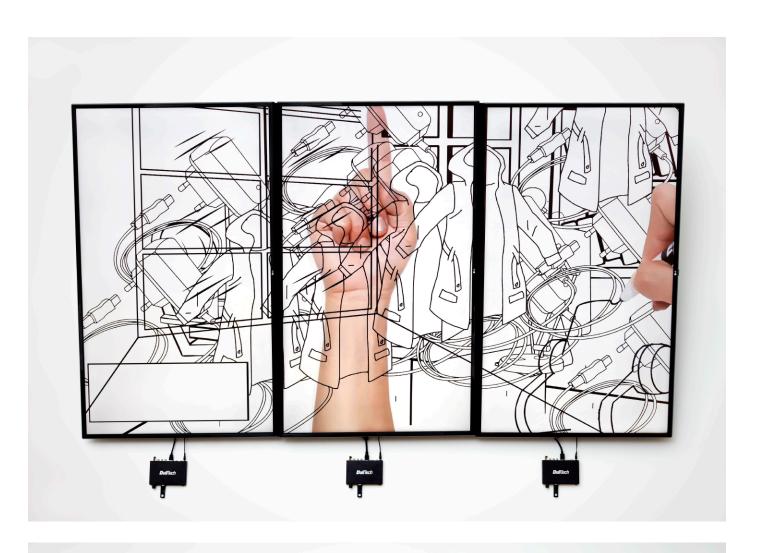
Constant Dullaart (NL, 1979) is a former resident of the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, and lives and works in Berlin. His works were shown in MCA, Chicago, Whitechapel Gallery London, Kindl, Berlin Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Import Projects Berlin, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, ZKM Karlsruhe, Victoria & Albert Museum London, and MAAT Lisbon. Dullaart has curated several exhibitions and lectured at universities and academies throughout Europe, most recently at Werkplaats Typografie, a post-graduate programme at ArtEZ, Arnhem. In 2015, he was awarded the Prix Net-Art, the international prize for internet art.













## DullTech™

Entrepreneurship turned out to be an important factor in Dullaart's artistic endeavors, since it has given him the autonomy to engage with power structures of corporations on a global level. Dullaart's first artistic-entrepreneurial project was DullTech™. In 2015, this startup raised enough money through a crowd-funding campaign to develop a media player. On a superficial level, the DullTech™ mediaplayer is just another commercial tech product. But in fact, DullTech™ gave Dullaart ample opportunity to research and comment upon the creative and productive sides of the tech industry.

With developing DullTech™, Dullaart became embedded in the production chain of electronic devices. By going to Shenzhen, South China, a region known as "The Silicon Valley of Hardware", Dullaart got to see the geopolitical reality behind many of these electronic devices. dull. life™ evokes similar questions on the working conditions within and beyond the co-working space. While artists and entrepreneurs can work safely behind their computer, cheap laborers on the other side of the globe will build their product. The product created in the co-working space hides the physical labor and neglects the people behind this.

DullTech™ demonstrated that not only the factory worker in Shenzhen, but also the artist in the West got marginalized by the creative industry.

The explainer video *Never complain, never explain* shows the workings of a coworking space, while at the same time showing the limits and possibilities of Dullaart's own product: the DullTech player.

Never complain, never explain, 2019 Video, here displayed on 3 screens and 3 DullTech media players Unique

# Machine learned, man made paintings. Synthesized image concepts.

Within the current Machine Learning Revolution, so-called convolutional networks (ConvNets) can now recognize objects within photographic images. This might seem like a trivial addition to already existing computer and online service capabilities, but it is a crucial step in how humans can interact with representation and depiction. The enhanced agency differentiating a cow from a horse, is rapidly developing into recognizing specific people and their moods, and interpreting behaviour.

If we all collectively imagine a candle, what would come out? Thousands, millions of images of candles are photographed and archived, representing so many aspects of our lives. Dinner conversations, social relationships, health, design, wealth, culture. Reverse engineering the so-called 'neural networks' that Facebook and Google use to recognize image content with, shows however what these networks understand of us so far: a cold machine-like interpretation of what we prefer to see and what we depict when representing a restaurant, fire, a refrigerator or a handkerchief. A collective visual consciousness learning to recognize the gradients, saliency, angles, curves and hues of every visual concept we can imagine. It shows what translates of our culture to machine understanding at this moment. Every day, new interpretation skills are outsourced to a neural network and every month shows us new applications of creative labour learned to a machine. Security cameras recording to the cloud are feeding the network to learn what evil is, based on statistics. We are outsourcing judgement and prejudice to facts interpreted by rules. It's not our decision, it is the network's decision based on learning from all the facts in the world.

In a way these synthesised images, based on photographic representation, show a mechanised version of the collective consciousness of Western societies. These current state-of-the-art, synthesised images look quite painterly, very surreal, copying human sense of documentation, and composition, rendering each visualised class a deadly but sympathetic rendering of the gestalt of the class in question.

This mechanical depiction of a concept questions our understanding of depiction in general, especially when positioned within a timeframe of rapid development of these convolutional networks. The sheer amount of money, education, talent and computing power Facebook, Google, OpenAI and others are throwing at these developments, does not suggest anything else then a future in which these techniques will be utilised and rapidly developed beyond the current painterly, even beautifully naive level.

Selected to show the trivial banal technicalities of human life, and the Convolutional Networks vision of its own parts, Dullaart sent the slightly naive, yet cold and surreal depictions to paint factories in Dafen Village, Shenzhen, China and translated into oil paintings on canvas. Continuing the image automation process with outsourced human labour. The TNT express delivered canvases were treated with an automotive clear coat mixed with ghost pearls, normally used in car paint and product design, amplifying the mechanically attractive, adversarially authentic compositions.



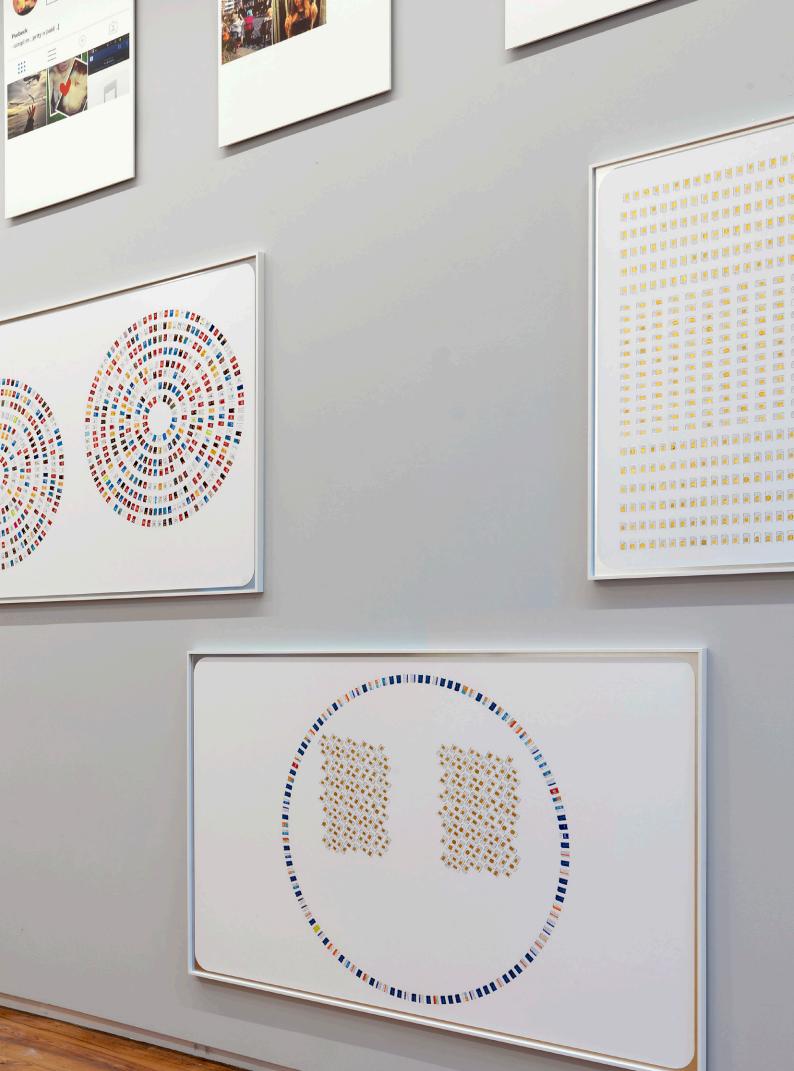


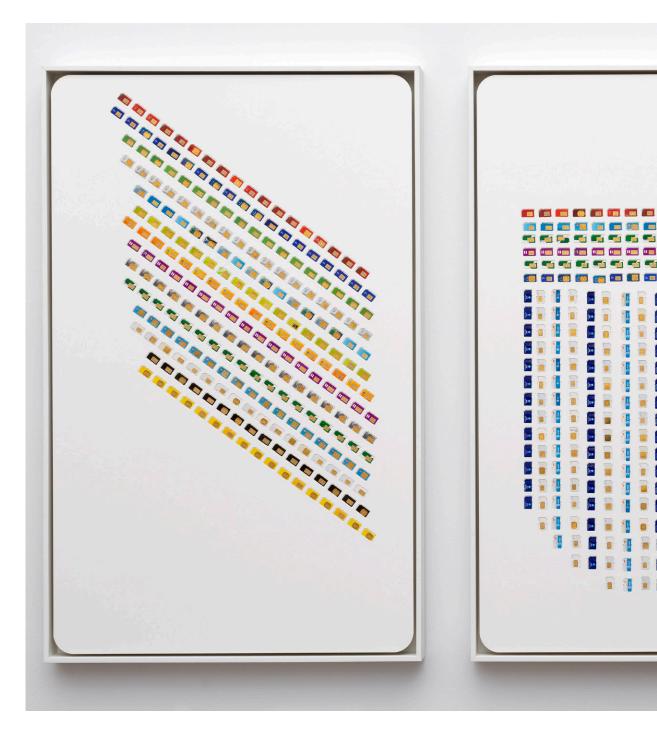
Sliding Door, 2017 Neural network synthesised images class; Acrylic and clear coat on canvas 200 x 200 cm Unique







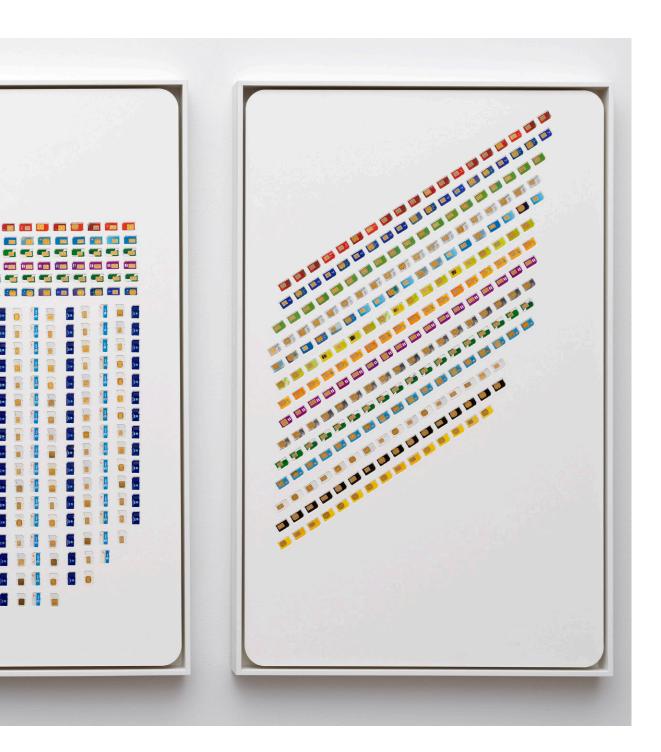




# PVA Formations (SIM card choreographies)

In Dullaart's durational performance *The Possibility of an Army* at Schirn Kunsthalle, he critically explored gained in importance through the daily use of social networks. Dullaart created a 'fake' army to stand up in revolution the false validation systems in journalism based on follower counts. The army was assembled which the artist used the names of the original Hessian mercenaries who were hired by the British to fight The original army generated a new income to Landgraf Friedrich II of Hessen, which he used to build the the Fridericianum.

The fake profiles' accounts were registered on phone numbers bought in bulk in multiple countries. The accounts offering PVAs (Phone Verified Accounts) as a service to create multiple user accounts, acting as pass this project, the artist has created compositions out of the purchased SIM cards. Waging a war against Fa SIM cards also act as the only physical remnants of the soldiers, as Facebook has now deleted 90% after E soldiers names. Purchased by kilo, the SIM cards are often recycled for their gold recovery, a process so therefore stand as a placeholder for the inherent value of identity as a commodity, turned to profit by have Leaving a thin sliver of gold worth a few cents when recovered. These frozen choreographies featuring further standing armies in ongoing and future information wars fought with automated cultural output.

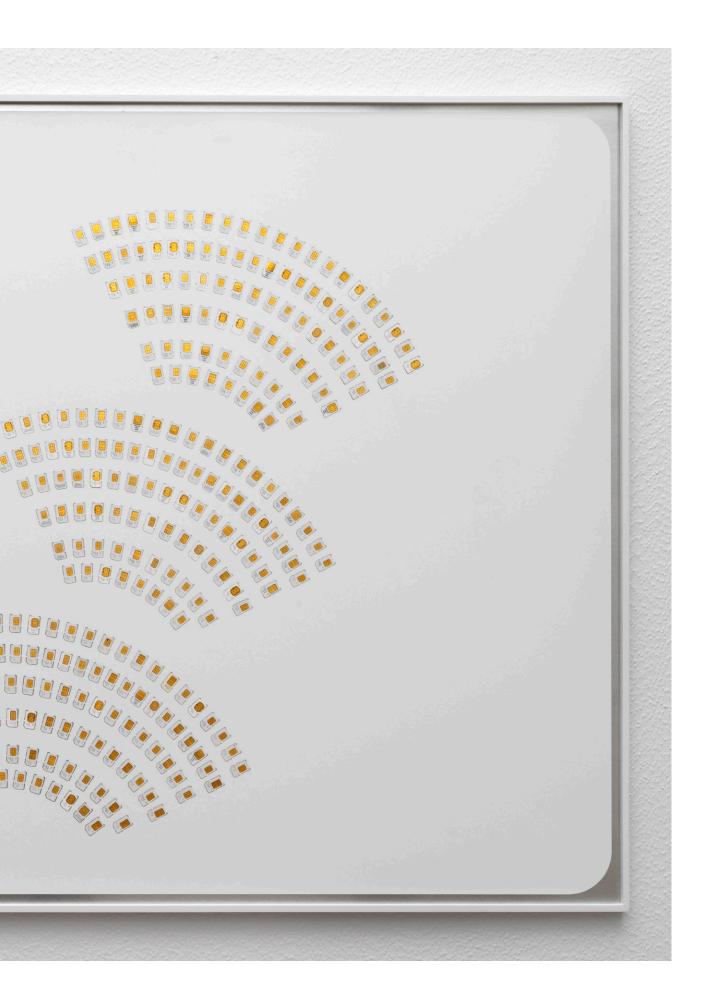


I the concept of digital identity, which has strongly the war against the current American social media of thousands of artificial profiles on Facebook, for in the American Revolutionary Wars (1775–1783). If first publicly accessible art museum in the world:

companying SIM cards are by-products of compasports to new identities. As a physical extension of cebook through the channels of mass media, the Jullaart released the historic source of the Hessian een as contemporary or urban mining. The works ing the new identity click, like, retweet and follow. physical remnants of artificial identities represent

Ey Pleuribus Umnumnum, Subscriber Identity Module commemoration, 2018
Sintra PVC, SIM cards
3 x 114,3 x 72 cm
Unique

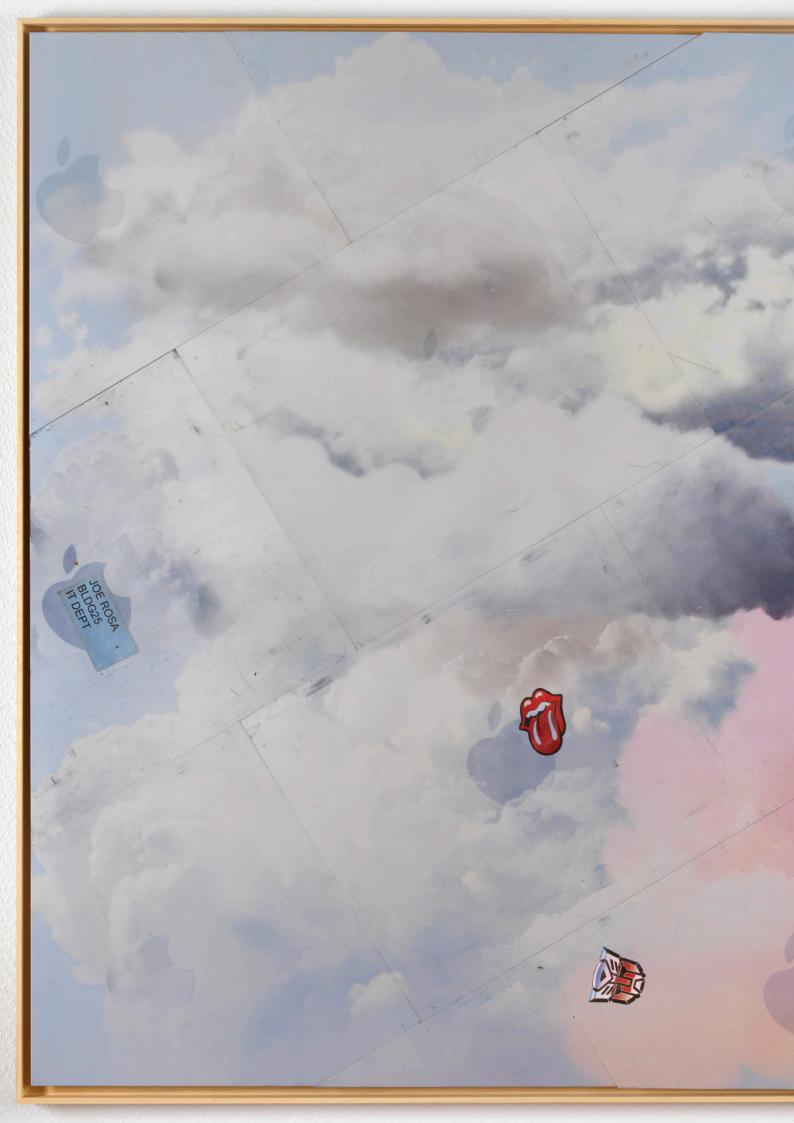




# This DVD guy

Constant Dullaart has been exploring the internet as a medium since the early 2000s. With works such as Youtube as a Sculpture (2009) – a sculptural rendition of the 'loading' animation on Youtube, Dullaart explored the technical limits and possibilities of the digital medium. Similarly, he worked with the DVD screensaver in a webcam performance, by moving himself within the screen and acting the bouncing of the logo on each side. This video work, known to many as "This DVD Guy", recently became a hit on the popular social media website Reddit. In dull.life™ you can watch the internet meme displayed on two LED Cubes.







## 2006

The dark infinite stream of clouds in the website dulldawn.io can also be seen in the the physical artworks 2006. These nostalgic works refer to a period in time when there were still high hopes about the the social and democratic benefits of the internet. In addition, it was the year in which the post-internet scene began to take shape.

2006 - Transformer, 2019 Aluminium, UV print 121 x 95,8 cm, framed Unique



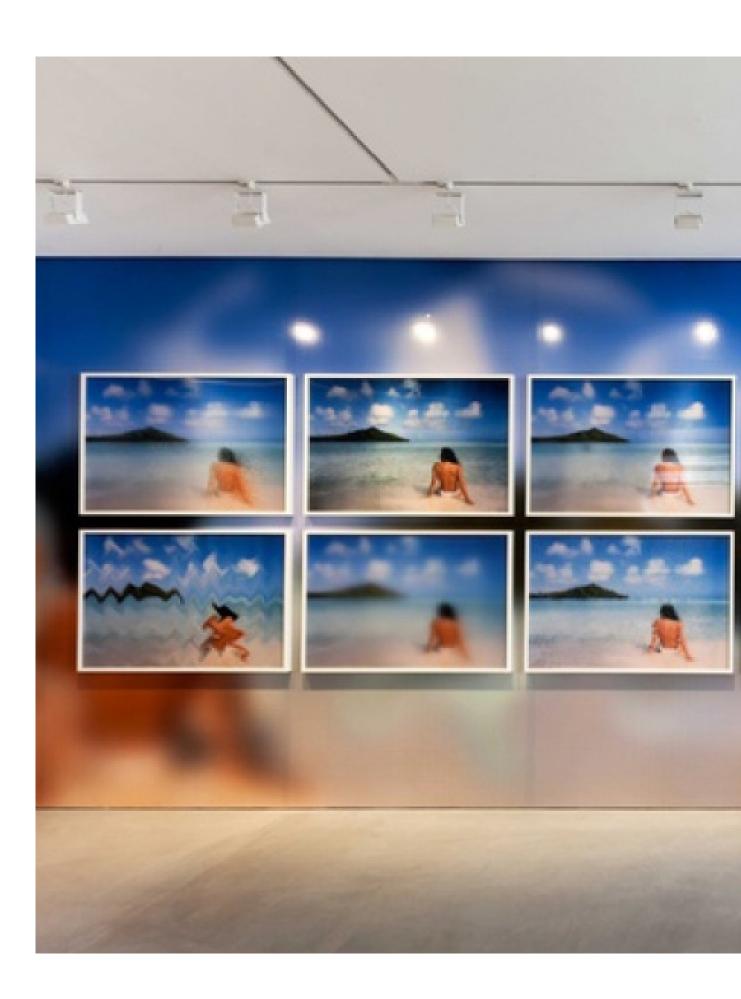
# Jennifer in Paradise (2013 - present)

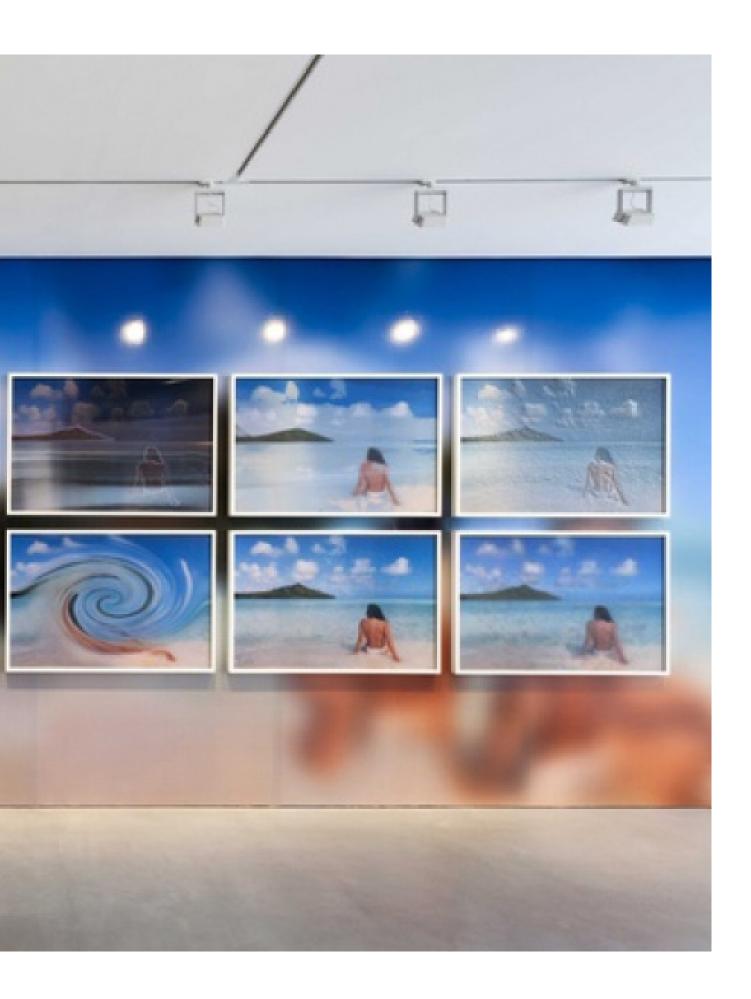
Dullaart's 'Jennifer in Paradise' series (2013-present) redistributes the image of a woman reclinated beach in Bora Bora, originally taken in 1988 by John Knoll, the co-creator of Photoshop. This subsequently became used as the programme's demonstration image and was therefore or world's first and most Photoshopped photograph, as new users became acquainted with the parameter the high-resolution version of the image is no longer available online, and so the artist has rethe image file pixel by pixel, before applying Photoshop's generic filters to create a range of distortion of the image is no longer available online.



Installation view of Jennifer in Paradise wallpaper and lenticular prints in the exhibition Electronic Superhighway (2016) at Whitechapel Gallery, London.

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## Follower profiles

Dullaart explores how online activity can be manipulated to generate social capital. His interventions on social media have shown the impact these platforms have and how they influence us in our daily lives. Additionally, he critically investigates the concept of digital identity which has strongly gained in importance through the daily use of social networks.

With his Instagram follower works, Dullaart points to the implications of the attention economy, based on audience as the ultimate commodity. In 2014, he bought and distributed 2.5 million artificial followers to 'follow' a selection of active art-world Instagram accounts. With this action, he equalized the amount of followers on each account, and inherently removed the issue of quantified popularity from this part of the art scene. The Instagram profiles seen here are physical realizations of these fake follower profiles, guilted on flags of different countries, with a female and a male side. Dullaart shows how identities are capitalized and what worrying implications this has, for instance, when buying followers, an American male follower is worth more than an Iranian female.





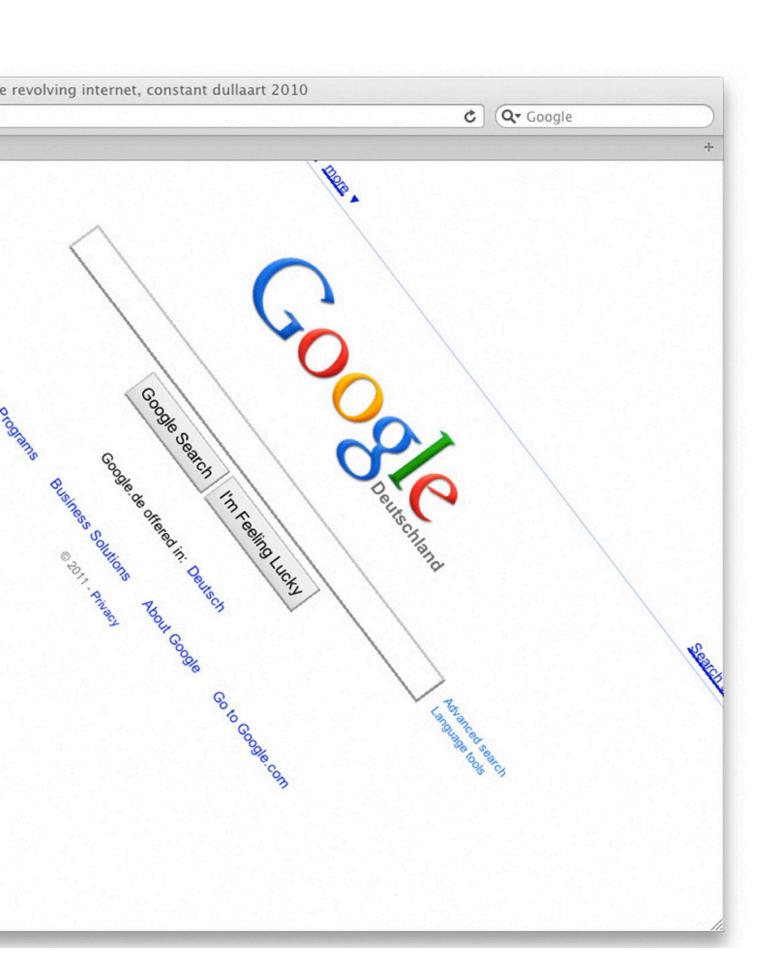


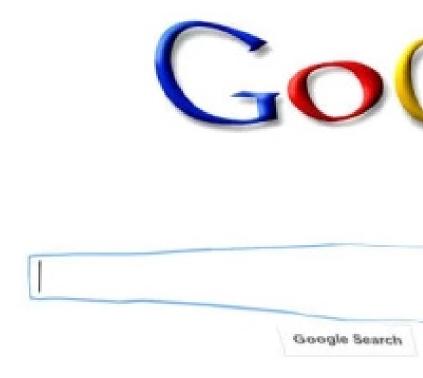


## Websites

'Since the beginning, I was always interested in dogmas or clichés shaping the way we view the world. Google became a really big part of that. I wanted to animate that, to change that. It's not objective, it's subjective. I started animating the Google page. I thought of making thedisagreeinginternet.com, thedoubtinginternet.com and therevolvinginternet.com, where the page is shown in a revolving sequence, just as the world spins.'

<u>therevolvinginternet.com</u>, 2010 Website

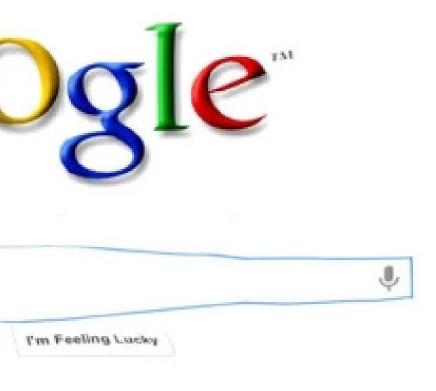




Anima

# Google Terms of Service

Terms of Service (2012), part of a series of works dealing with the advertise arch box into a literal face which recites Google's terms of service, created several internet services. Terms which one implicitly agrees to when using the but are always too long to read, and do not give any information about how New Museum (New York, 2012) Dullaart rewrote a standard TOS text to enthe New Museum and the City of New York as a performance. He also put in which the social networking site was influencing his life and social life. <a href="http://constantdullaart.com/TOS/">http://constantdullaart.com/TOS/</a>



Google Terms of Service English, 2012 ted Google search page, reading the Terms of Service conditions out loud

sing company's search interface, is a work that transforms the Google seby Dullaart as a response to the continuously changing TOS conditions of these seemingly public and transparent information representation service, with the displayed information is selected. During his TOS performance at the apphasize the audience had an agreement with him as a performer and with blicly gave away his Facebook account password, as a reaction to the way



# THE DEATH CONSTANT 2013







## The Censored Internet

The Censored Internet (2014) is based on the official list that are accused of cyber censorship and restricting free flagpoles so as to invade the space, combined with LED as to make them almost indiscernible, questioning the filt



The Censored Internet, 2014 Flags, lasers, domain name, custom vinyl wallpaper 628 x 520 cm

of the 19 countries named as enemies of the internet dom of information. The countries' flags are hung from spot lighting, which changes the colours of the flags so ering of information via the Internet.

# UPSTREAM GALLERY

Kloveniersburgwal 95 - 1011KB Amsterdam - The Netherlands

## Curriculum Vitae // Constant Dullaart

Name Constant Dullaart Birth 1979, Leiderdorp, NL

Residence Berlin, DE

2012

Education 2002 Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam

2008 Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten / Dutch

Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

## Solo Exhibitions (Selection)

2019	Profile Wars, Cirl.Art, ABN AMRO, Amsterdam dull.life ™ - hack, hustle, historicize, Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam
2018	Cultural Matter: Constant Dullaart, LIMA, Amsterdam Constant Dullaart 100.000 Followers for Everyone, FOAM Museum, Amsterdam The Armory Show New York with Upstream Gallery
2016	Deep Epoch, Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam Future Gallery, Berlin, Germany MU, Eindhoven, Smart Objects, Los Angeles
2015	The Possibility of an Army, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany Jennifer, Futura, Prague Opening Times, London Filter economy and quantified social capital, Dutch National Bank, Amsterdam ABC with Future Gallery, Berlin The Censored Internet, Aksioma, Ljubliana
2014	High Retention Slow Delivery, Jeu de Paume-espace virtuel, Paris Stringendo, Vanishing Mediators, Carroll / Fletcher, London Brave New Panderers, XPO Gallery, Paris
2013	Jennifer in Paradise, Future Gallery, Berlin Jennifer in Paradise, Import Projects, Berlin

Onomatopoeia, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City

HEALING, Fabio Paris Gallery, Brescia, Italy

Treffpunkt Internet, speedshow, Berlin

## Group Exhibitions (selection)

2019 Uncanny Values, MAK, Vienna

Screen it! at Art Brussels, Brussels

Festival van de Controle, Cultuurcentrum Hasselt, Hasselt

Behind the Screen, Kindl, Berlin Influencers, Galerie Hussenot, Paris

2018 Strasbourg Biennale, Strasbourg, France

Agency, Nome Gallery, Berlin

All I Know is What's on the Internet, The Photographers Gallery, London

Algorithmic Superstructures, Impakt Festival, Utrecht

Berlin Zentrum der Netzkunst - Damals und Heute, Panke Gallery, Berlin I Was Raised On The Internet, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

When Facts don't Matter, Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore From ZERO to 2018, Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam

2017 Electronic Superhighway, MAAT, Lisbon

Open Codes, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

Windows, Basel

Collecting Europe, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

How to Disappear Completely, Garage Rotterdam, Rotterdam

Human/Digital: a Symbiotic Love Affair, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam

Transmediale, Berlin

2016 Electronic Super Highway, White Chapel, London

Neo Liberal Lulz, Carroll / Fletcher, London

2015 Find your Beach, Kurator, Rapperswill, CH Follow, Fact, Liverpool

Sign of the Times, Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg

Kvalitar, Prague

Planet Hype, Museum of the Image, Breda

Then they form us, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara

YouTube, Kunsthaus Langenthal

Algorithmic Rubbish, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, Amsterdam

Mijn Vlakke Land, Foto Museum Antwerpen Muse, Frans Hals museum / de Hallen, Haarlem

When I give, I give myself, van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

Výstava, Plato, Ostrava

Panopticon, UMOCA, Salt Lake City PEBCAK IMHO, HEK / Liste 2015, Basel

Hamster Hipster Handy, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt

Digital // Analog: Indifferenz, Motorenhalle, Dresden

2014 Böse Clowns, HMKV, Dortmund

BALCONISM, MoMart, Amsterdam

The Fluidity Aspect, TodaysArt 2014, The Hague Megarave, Kunsthaus Langenthal, Langenthal

Treasure of Lima, TBA21, Vienna

Net.Art painters and poets, City Art Gallery, Ljubljana Les Immaterieux for instance, Kunstverrein Dusseldorf

net.art Painters and Poets, City Art Museum Ljubljana, Ljubljana

Real Imaginary Futures, Bureau Europa Maastricht

Surplus Living, KM Temporaer, Berlin
Online / Offline / Encoding Everyday Life, Transmediale, Berlin

2013 Casting a Wide net, Postmasters, New York

Come all ye Faithful, Seedorf residence, Zurich

Young Bohemia, Moscow Bienale, Russia Run

Computer Run, Rua Red, Dublin Summer Splash 2, DAM, Berlin

Offline-art: Hardcore, Kasseler Kunstverrein

Tactical Magick, Cast Gallery, Hobart

Sight and Sound Festival, Eastern Bloc, Montreal

Brand Innovations for Ubiquitious authorship, Carroll Fletcher, London

SECONDO ANNIVERSARIO, Seventeen Gallery, London

From Here on, Arts Santa Monica, Barcelona

Club Transmediale, Berlin

Sight & Sound, Eastern Bloc, Montreal Art Geneve, Future Gallery, Genevea

Offline Art, Xpo Gallery, Paris

In that weird Age, Club Transmediale, Berlin

2012 Analogital, UMOCA, Salt Lake City

Online Mythologies, Polytechnic Museum, Moscow

Collect the Wwworld, 319 Scholes, New York

Not by Default, [DAM], Berlin

Hot, DVD deaddrop, Museum of the Moving Image, New York

Streamlines, Kansas Gallery, New York

Collect the Wwworld, Haus für elektronische Künste, Basel

From here on, Fotomuseum, Antwerpen DOTCOM, Centre d'Art Bastille, Grenoble

GIF's 4 life, Irish Museum of Contemporary Art, Dublin Tranceiver, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha

In-compatible, Transmediale, Berlin

The rescue of the Effects, General Public, Berlin

2011 Screen test, CAC, Cincinnati, USA

Collect the Wwworld, the LINK center, Brescia Transcendental Empiricism, Rob Tufnell, London

Truck Gallery, Calgary

Moscow Biennale, Moscow

Genius without talent, de Appel, Amsterdam

From here on, Rencontre d'Arles

Landart for a new Generation, MAMA, Rotterdam

Gegen Null, Binz39, Zurich Filetype, Gallery 400, Chicago

A Painting Show, Autocenter, Berlin

Curator Battle, Aaron Moulton v.s. Carson Chan, Grimuseum, Berlin

Memery, MassMoCA, Boston

Big screen project / CultureHall, New York

Gif Show, MU. Eindhoven

2010 LaFiac.com, Paris

Artie Vierkant & Constant Dullaart, Extra Extra, Philadelphia, USA Sound

wwwalk, Vienna

Eine Hand voll Leben, Atelierhof Kreuzberg, Berlin

Easyjetsetters & Protection, Forgotten Bar Project, Berlin

Palais Paradiso, Amsterdam

3 hours in one second, BASSO, Berlin

Fluxus, WORM, Rotterdam

Don't worry be happy, MAMA, Rotterdam

2009 Photography in Reverse, FOAM Museum, Amsterdam

Versions, NIMK, Amsterdam MBIBTY, Lyon Biennial, Lyon

Off the record, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam Here we are there we go, NIMK, Amsterdam

Contemporary Semantics Beta, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam

Forms of Melancholy, Sego Art Center, Utah

## Film/Video Screenings (selection)

2013 International Film Festival, Rotterdam

2011 Prosume this, Berlin

Lost & Found, Amsterdam

2009 Lost & Found in the New Museum, New York

Just add Water, by Pascual Sisto, DeSoto Gallery, Los Angeles Secret Life, part of Version Festival, by Ola Vasiljeva, Chicago

Mirror Site by Jon Rafman, MWNM, New York

## Curatorial projects (selection)

2013 Another Fluxconcert in Amsterdam (Googleism), NASA, Amsterdam

2011 Interfacial Gesture Salon, CSS Bard with Laurel Ptak

2010 Public Interfacial Gesture Salon, Berlin and Vienna

2009 Versions, NIMK, Amsterdam

Video Vortex, Cimatics, Atomium Brussels Lost & Found, New Museum, New York

Contemporary Semantics Beta, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam

2008-9 Lost and Found, Amsterdam

2008 K.I.S.S, www.clubinternet.org

CYCLUS DVD, Mr motley magazine

2006 The €10.000 show, w139, Amsterdam

# <u>Lectures, Performances, Debates and Seminars</u> (selection)

2016 Workshop, HFG Offenbach, Germany

2015 Competing with the outsourced, Mertz Academy, Stuttgart

Writing Workshop, Sidney Bienale, Sidney

Neo Liberal Lulz, Stroom, Den Haag

Art as Start up? Spike magazine at Paris Internationale, Paris Lunchbytes conference, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

Lafayette Re:Source, Paris

Les Immatériaux: towards the virtual with J.-F. Lyotard, Courtauld institute London

Internetional, Witte de With, Showroom Mamma, V2, Rotterdam

Share this, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam

2014 Do You Follow? Art in Circulation #2, Rhizome/ICA, London

Society: Utopia, Lunch Bytes #1 Seminar, Stockholm

2013 Marc Berville Projects Paris

2012 MIACA, Hong Kong PAF, Olomouc

Digital October, Moscow

OCT design Museum, Shenzhen, China Guangzhou art academy,

Guangzhou, China Global Art Forum, Dubai

New Silent Series, New Museum, New York, USA Utah Moca, Saltlake City

The Influencers, Barcelona

Transmediale, Berlin

2011 Visual responses to a colonized medium, Museum für Angewante Kunst, Vienna

2010 Data 4.4 Dublin

Dropshadow talk, Berliner Technische Kunsthochschule, Berlin

Domain (rhizome), 01SJ biannual, San Jose

Incubate, Tilburg

Performikka Internetikka, NIMK, Amsterdam

2009 Society of the Query, Amsterdam

Video Vortex, Cinemania, Atomium Brussels

Impact online, the slow web, Utrecht

Jury member International Bunker Film Festival, Ventimiglia

2007 Moderator, vvork.com artblog discussion, Gallerie West, The Hague

### <u>Awards</u>

2015 Prix Net-Art2004 One Minute Award2003 One minute award

### Residencies

2017	ISCP residency, Mondriaan Fund, New York City, USA
2014	Opening Times, London, UK
2013	[ space ] residency with Goethe Institute, London, UK
2012	OCAT, Shenzhen, China
2010	Quartier 21, Museums Quartier Vienna, Austria
	Shortfuse, UK
2007	Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten / Dutch Ministry of
	Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands

## Selected publications

"The Revolving Internet is one in a series of browser-based works by artist Constant Dullaart that animated the iconic Google search page, drawing attention to the infrastructure that framed most users' experience of the internet. By adding animation to the Google interface but retaining its functionality, Dullaart's formalist experiments cheekily questioned the platform's growing power. A steadily rotating version of the Google home page, The Revolving Internet is soundtracked by Dusty Springfield's "Windmills of your Mind," heightening the absurdity of the experience. Through this deceptively simple intervention, Dullaart reached a broad public while prompting users to consider their growing reliance on platforms."

in: The Art Happens Here: Net Art Anthology (2019) by Rhizome (affiliate of the New Museum, New York)

"Dullaart explores how online activity can be manipulated to generate social capital and how systems of power can exist covertly on the internet."

Omar Kholeif in: The Artists Who Will Change the World (2018)

"The fluidity of boundaries between artist and tech communities and questions of authorship, virtuosity, and the performativity of art in a mediated environment are an important aspect of the work of the winner of the 2015 Prix Net Art, Constant Dullaart. Dullaart's work stays firmly yet defiantly within the realm of contemporary art, but from a position profoundly informed by the conditions of new media networks—technical as well as cultural, social, economical, and political networks. Dullaart strives for an honest, respectful, yet unembellished approach to the materials and conditions of the network. At the same time his work is full of humor, wit, and critical commentary."

Jury Prix Net Art 2015 statement excerpt on Constant Dullaart

"Dullaart proves himself as one of the most relevant artists of this moment. He mercilessly lays bare the sore points of the computerized society. He cleverly links activist fire and conceptual depth to a visually interesting execution"

Edo Dijksterhuis (journalist) on the solo exhibition Deep Epoch (2016)

Also featured in these recent publications:

Omar Kholeif, Looking at Art in the Digital Age (2018)

Omar Kholeif, You Are Here. Art After the Internet (2017)

Electronic Superhighway. From Experiments in Art and Technology to Art After the Internet (2016)

# UPSTREAM GALLERY

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