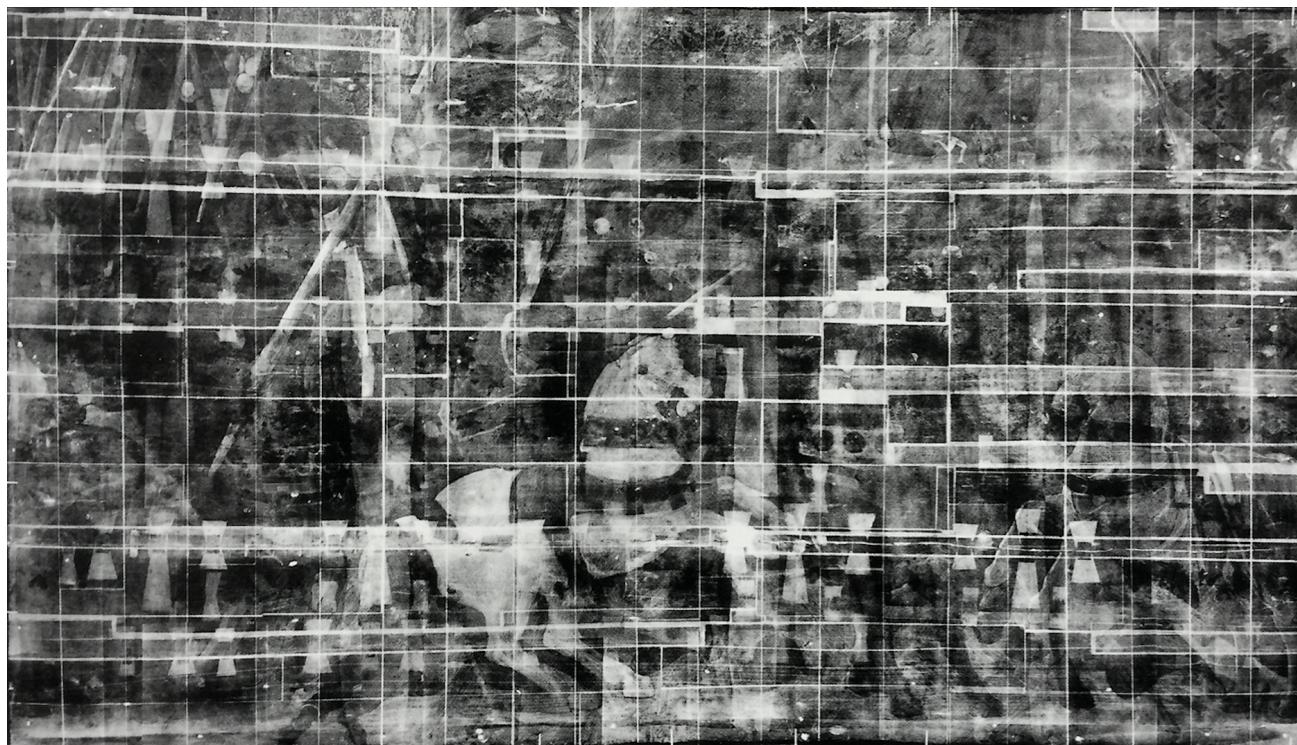


MIT IV, 2013. C-type Print, 112 x 175 cm. Edition of 5.

Alejandro Guijarro (b. 1979) is a Spanish contemporary artist working within spaces between photography, drawing and painting. His work explores new possibilities of contemporary photography, questioning its ability to refer to reality or truth. He lives and works between London and Madrid.

His work examines spatial relations in photographic representation, exploring what photography is still allowed and able to do, questioning its ability to refer to reality or truth. He makes contradictory and paradoxical images, where the boundaries of photography break down. The artworks imply a tension that goes back and forth between what can be seen and what can be understood, creating a simultaneous sense of appearance and disappearance. By undermining our recognisable modes of perception, he questions the solidity of our understanding of reality and truth.

*Momentum* is a three-year project in which Guijarro travelled to the greatest quantum mechanics institutions in the world. Using a large-format camera, he photographed the blackboards exactly as he found them and displayed the results in a life-size format. Once removed from their initial context, the meaning evolves: the viewer begins to appreciate the equations for their line and form, colour comes into play and the waves created by the blackboard eraser suggest a vast landscape or galactic setting. The formulas illustrate the worlds of Quantum Mechanics. What began as a precise lecture, a description of the physicist's thought process, is transformed into a canvas open to any number of possibilities. These are not works that pretend to hold any kind of objective truth.



N-0583-00-000135 (*The Battle of San Romano*), 2016. Archival Pigment Print, 180 x 320 cm, edition of 5.

The title of Guijarro's second series, *LEAD*, refers to the presence of this metal in 17th and 18th century paint. This is what the X-rays show, bouncing back off lead pigments to transform the paintings from recognisable images into otherworldly scenes, as if the viewer is given access to a separate reality below the surface paint. In this body of work, Guijarro collaborated with the conservation and collections departments of The Prado Museum, Madrid, The Louvre, Paris and The National Gallery, London, scanning X-ray and ultra-violet renditions of Old Master paintings – including works by Van Dyck, Rubens, Delacroix, Goya, and Velazquez. The resulting photographs possess a graphic power strangely suggestive of the abstract expressionist New York School group, or a Gerhard Richter painting. Guijarro has taken a scientific process used to demystify the paintings, and in doing so made them more unknowable, blurring the divisions between science and art. 'At the heart of this series of work is a paradox: as X-rays they belong to the realm of scientific images, objective, possessing an unquestionable scientific truth. Yet, by their visual indeterminacy, they also exist in the subjective world of personal interpretation, the intuitional and emotional,' says Guijarro.

Guijarro's works can be seen as an attempt to bridge the gap between science and art and is an exciting development in Contemporary Photography.

Since completing his MA at the Royal College of Art in 2010, Guijarro has been involved in numerous exhibitions internationally and his work remains in private collections, such as the Frank-Suss collection, Sammlung Goetz the Saatchi Gallery. Guijarro's practice has been featured and reviewed in the British Journal of Photography, The Guardian, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, and Harvard Business Review among others.

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- Solo Exhibitions**
- 2022 *LAPSO*, el Chico, Madrid, Spain
  - 2020 *36 Views from Within*, Galería Alvaro Alcazar, Madrid, Spain
  - 2017 *Remnants*, Galerie HUIT, Hong Kong  
*LEAD*, Tristan Hoare, London, UK
  - 2015 *Momentum*, Marlborough Gallery, PHotoESPAÑA15, Festival off, Madrid, Spain
  - 2014 *Festival IMAGES*, Espace Quai n°1, Vevey, Switzerland
  - 2012 *Momentum*, Tristan Hoare, London, UK

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- Group Exhibitions**
- 2024 *Apocalypse Now*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London, UK
  - 2021 *Visto y no visto (Seen-Unseen)*, Galería Alvaro Alcazar, Madrid
  - 2018 *Geometrica*, Tristan Hoare, London, UK  
*Transmission*, Galerie HUIT, Hong Kong  
*Strange Worlds*, Albert van Abbehuis, Eindhoven, NL
  - 2017 Noorderlicht Photofestival 2017. NUCLEUS, Imaging Science. Groningen, NL  
*Insights: New Approaches to Photography since 2000*. PHOTOFAIRS San Francisco, USA
  - 2014 *New Order: British Art Today*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*Blackboard - Art from teaching / learning art*, Artipelag Konstall, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Photography 2.0*, PHotoESPAÑA14, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain  
Marcelle Joseph Projects, Ascot, UK  
*The Uncertainty Principle*, The Goma Gallery, Madrid, Spain
  - 2013 *Momentum*, Gertrud, The Contemporary Collector's Club, New York, USA  
*Momentum*, Google NYC Headquarters, New York, USA
  - 2011 *Stitch, Art for the Earth*, The Diary Gallery, London, UK  
*Unpublished*, 1st December, Le Dictateur Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Broad Daylight*, Fumi Gallery, London, UK  
*Exploration and Intervention, New Landscape Photography*, George & Jørgen Fine Art, London, UK
  - 2010 *The Uneasy Landscape*, Fold Gallery, London, UK  
*London Loves*, Vitrine Gallery, London, UK  
*Albion Show*, Show Two RCA, London, UK  
*RCA Show*, Gulbenkian Gallery, London, UK
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- (group exhibitions continued..)
- 2009 Christie's Paris, Arsep-Christie's, Paris, France  
Royal College of Art, Gulbenkian Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 Candid Arts Trust Gallery, London, UK
- 2007 ITS SIX (International Talent Support), Trieste, Italy

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- Awards and Grants**
- 2015 Prix Pictet Photography Prize (nomination)
- 2013 PhotoEspaña13. Descubrimientos, Spain (finalist)
- 2011 Festival international de Mode et de Photographie a Hyères, France (nomination)
- 2010 E-Creative Award, London (finalist)
- 2009 Man Photography Prize, London (finalist)  
The Royal College of Art Bursary, London (winner)  
The Villiers David Travel Award, London (winner)
- 2007 ITS SIX (International Talent Support), Italy (finalist)
- 2004 Premio de Fotografia Ministerio de Economia, Spain (Third Place)

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- Selected Press**
- 2019 *Even Physicists Don't Understand Quantum Mechanics*, The New York Times
- 2017 *LEAD*, Exhibition Catalogue (Essay by Francis Hodgson)  
*Alejandro Guijarro on X-Raying the Old Masters*, Artnet  
*Beneath the Surface. Alejandro Guijarro's exploration of reality*, Wall Street International Magazine  
*Scratching the Surface*, British Journal of Photography, February issue  
*The masterpieces hiding in old master paintings*, The Guardian
- 2016 *Momentum Series*, Cafe Royal Books (Essay by Francis Hodgson)
- 2015 *The Cloud of Unknowing – The Momentum Series of Alejandro Guijarro*, Francis Hodgson
- 2014 *Post-Photography: The artist with the camera*, Elephant Book (edited by Robert Shore)  
*Here's A Way To Appreciate Quantum Mechanics Even If You Know Nothing About Science*, Huffington Post
- 2013 British Journal of Photography, October Issue.  
*Artist's Statement: Alejandro Guijarro discusses work in New Order: British Art Today*, Culture 24.  
*My best photograph*, The Guardian
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# Alejandro Guijarro

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**Permanent  
Collections**

Sammlung Goetz Collection, Munich, Germany

Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

The Frank Suss Collection, London, UK

The Davis Museum, Massachusetts, USA

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