

GLADSTONE GALLERY

"Cyprien Gaillard: The Crystal World," *The New Yorker*, March 7, 2013.

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

CYPRIEN GAILLARD: THE CRYSTAL WORLD

A nostalgic sepia glow radiates from the eighty works in the young French artist's first solo show in New York, but don't be fooled. Training his eye on a wide range of locales—Mexico, Cambodia, Cleveland—Gaillard draws viewers in with the promise of romance, then turns it into rubble through technological sleights of hand. For the 2011 film "Artefact," the artist travelled to Iraq and captured videos on his iPhone, which he then transferred to 35-mm. film. Projected at a monumental scale here, and set to the mournful refrain of David Gray's pop ballad "Babylon" (reportedly used to torture prisoners at Abu Ghraib), the montage of ruins and military occupation is as chilling as it is seductive. Elsewhere, Polaroid photographs of global tourist destinations—already fading, owing to the nature of the film on which they were shot—are arranged into grids, revealing a homogeneity that reduces the imperial ideal of the grand tour into a generically bland one. Through March 18.

January 20 – March 18

MOMA PS1

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