

DIRTY by Hanna Haaslahti

Motion capture has become a standard practice in producing animation for 3d characters. Actors wear special suits where carefully placed points make them visible for the capturing system. They themselves become invisible in the process, transmitting to the digital entities their spirit and personality, authenticity that could not ever be created with manual animation method. In Dirty, the points representing actors remain void, without a digital placeholder. Who are they?

The animation shows a group of people forcing another group of people scrub the ground, re-enacting the activities of so-called scrubbing patrols, which occurred in Austria after it's annexation to Germany in 1938. The public spectacle of humiliation was one manifestation of the ongoing psychological warfare, which initiated ordinary citizens to coming atrocities.



The photograph from a scrubbing patrol has a strong emotional message, that wants to be told again and again. It is a trauma that distorts the reality. Like a ghost, it wants to stay alive, resisting dying and oblivion. It is constantly sending signals.

Dirty does not disclose the identities of people participating the scene. The blank, monochromatic background and strong contrast between background and foreground resets the vision and viewers are able to see apparition of bodies around the point skeletons. The scarcity of information is inspiring the brain to produce pattern recognition out of just few dots resembling a human form. Instead of re-enacting a historical scene, Dirty regenerates vision by separating the signal from noise.





Dirty - installation by Hanna Haaslahti

Exhibition tech :

Flat panel display 42"

Display mount

UHD or HD Projector

Black projection screen or wall painted black

Brightsign X 2

Description :

The installation is divided in two picture planes, depicting signal and noise. The animation is taking place on the foregrounding display, while in the projection points are randomly moving in space, creating a background of noise.