

## CORDIAL INVITE

With "Blurry Gazes" by Anna Boldt and Mathias Weinfurter, Synnika opens the first exhibition of the annual program "Beyond Barracks" on Friday, April 14th, 2023.

Vernissage: 14.4., 7pm

Duration: 14.4.-29.5.2023

Finissage: 29.5., 3pm

The exhibition *Blurry Gazes* follows the interdisciplinary research work of Anna Boldt and Mathias Weinfurter, which the duo began in Colombia under the title "Miradas Borrosas" in 2019 and continued in the context of their residency at the NIROX Foundation (2022-23) in the Republic of South Africa.

The central exploration of the artistic research addresses questions of private and public space, functions and mechanisms of security architectures, and examines their relationship to social structures that produce poverty and exploitation under the sign of capitalism. Like through a magnifier, *Blurry Gazes* thus functions as a mediator that not only focuses on individual lived realities, but aims at global comparability. The exhibition at Synnika shows in the form of a video installation by Boldt and Weinfurter the results of the research, which were realized with photography, film, and interviews, and contextually complements them with sculptural work.

In 2019 Boldt and Weinfurter realized the experimental research and art project *Miradas Borrosas en. Blurry Gazes* in the Colombian village of Ambalema. The starting point was the footage that Google had taken on site six years earlier for its online service Google Street View (GSV).

Until then, the residents had no knowledge of their existence and public accessibility, as the village does not have permanently installed internet access. After an extensive engagement with the inhabitants through the confrontation with the photos, their experiences and impressions, a participatory intervention and a performance was realized on site. The interventions resulted in a film that was shown as part of a spatial installation.

During their residency at the NIROX Foundation from December 2022 to January 2023, Boldt and Weinfurter realized *Blurry Gazes* to allow a comparison of impressions. The research again started with a series of photographs, stitched together on GSV, of various locations in the region surrounding NIROX, taken at various times. Whilst in residence, the duo conducted research on-site, meeting those captured by GSV and exploring the site-specific conditions of the proximate (yet economically disparate) areas of Nietgedacht, Roodepoort, and Krugersdorp. The result is a portrait of these respective communities juxtaposed with their online representation, raising a number of questions about visibility, representation, agency, surveillance, and land in South Africa.

Further information: <https://synnika.space/events/blurry-gazes>  
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Information on accessibility:

Synnika is located on the groundfloor of NIKA.Haus. The entrance has a 20 cm high step. A mobile ramp is available. Unfortunately, the toilet is not accessible.

[www.synnika.space](http://www.synnika.space)

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