

# Jonathas de Andrade

## Voyeristico



Jonathas de Andrade, *Voyeristico* (still), 2018. HD video, 4:25 minutes. Courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York.

CAM presents *Voyeristico*, a recent video by Jonathas de Andrade, as part of Street Views—projected on the museum’s facade from dusk to midnight. The Brazilian artist creates works related to the landscape and culture of Recife, a city located in the northeast region of Brazil where he lives and works. The region has been marked by colonialism and underdevelopment, and de Andrade often makes works in response to that history and its socioeconomic effects.

For *Voyeristico*, de Andrade approached individuals on the streets of Recife and São Paulo to film them slowly opening their wallets and displaying the contents. The video is constructed as a sequence of close-up snapshots of each wallet, filmed seemingly over the shoulder of the subject. This angle creates a sense that

we are voyeurs—as indicated in the video’s title—peeking into the private space of a stranger’s wallet. A charged object, the wallet contains documentation of identity, citizenship, social background, associations both personal and professional, as well as hints of the subjects’ wealth. Given the rise of corruption in contemporary Brazil, the video can also be read as



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a commentary on secrecy, and hidden affluence and privilege.

In *Voyeristico*, de Andrade suggests a fetishistic impulse toward paper money, evident in the slow handling of cash with heightened soundtrack, emphasizing the sensual quality of touch. The video also features the amplified and accentuated sounds of velcro, snaps, coins, and leather. While the silent video is projected on the building each evening, the version of *Voyeristico* with sound is shown on the second floor during museum hours throughout the season.

**Jonathas de Andrade** (b. 1982, Maceió, Brazil, lives and works in Recife) uses photography, installation, and video to traverse collective memory and history, making use of strategies that shuffle fiction and reality. De Andrade collects and catalogues architecture, images, texts, and life stories to recompose a personal narrative of the past. Recent solo museum exhibitions include Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon (2013); Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal (2013); Museu de Arte do Rio (2014–15); Museu de Arte de São Paulo (2016–17); The Power Plant, Toronto (2017); New Museum, New York (2017); and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2019).

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*Jonathas de Andrade: Voyeristico* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator.



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