

JOHN MILLER

A publication is a time capsule & transmitter from here to there, from you to me.

Working from this basic statement: how has your work changed since your 2012 or 2014 contribution to ==?

One way in which my work has changed is that I started making PowerPoints as short-form films. These have allowed me to integrate critical observations as well as personal narratives with my Middle of the Day photographs. In part, I was inspired by a PowerPoint work that Cara Benedetto did for a show I organized (“Bad Conscience”). Her piece was about personal ads and dating.

28

This question and timeline could be rephrased as: How has your life & work changed in the wake of Brexit, Trump’s presidency, and the move to the right in Europe? (The majority of contributors are based in the US and this prompt is not intended to romanticize Obama’s presidency or deny repressive administrations that have come before).

My turn to PowerPoint preceded both Brexit and Trump. But one of themse—titled “In the Middle”—considered immigration vis-à-vis tourism in Berlin. This was a subject that had preoccupied me for several years before I started working with on it. The work also preceded the refugee crisis of 2015.

Otherwise, I don’t feel I’ve managed an adequate response to the repressiveness of the Trump administration, although I’ve resisted it in various, small ways. I do think that the populist reaction is broader than Trump per se, and that his critics should remember that. Rather, we need to recognize that how global income inequality can create political instability; this is something that Thomas Picketty identified precisely in his book *Capital in the 21st Century-First Century*.

On the national level, the current political climate vindicates the polemics of my 1998 “Politics of Hate in the USA” essay, which analyzed the militia movement, among other things. Around 2000, the radical right faded into the background of American consciousness but it didn’t disappear. First the Tea Party, then Breitbart brought it to bear on current politics, in part as a racist reaction to the Obama era. ===

