

GAGOSIAN



EDGAR CLEIJNE ELLEN GALLAGHER

Highway Gothic, 2017–19

Art Basel Unlimited
June 13–16, 2019, hall 1.1
Messe Basel

Edgar Cleijne and Ellen Gallagher, *Highway Gothic*, 2017–19, 16mm film, cyanotype-printed 70mm filmstrips, projectors, sound mixers, spotlights, fabric, wire, metal, copper rods, polyester plates, resin, plastic, tape, LED lights, and power cords, overall dimensions variable, 1 of 3 unique versions © Edgar Cleijne and Ellen Gallagher

Edgar Cleijne and Ellen Gallagher's *Highway Gothic* (2017–19) is an installation consisting of two 16mm film projections and cyanotype banners created on film strips, linen, and canvas. It explores the ecological, cultural, and social impact of the US Interstate 10 highway as it cuts through both New Orleans and the Atchafalaya Swamp. Drawing on imagery spanning from precolonial times to the present day, the work brings together the intersecting histories of the Chitimacha Indians; Faubourg Tremé, one of the oldest Black urban neighborhoods in the country; government planning (explored via the Highway Gothic typeface used on road signage in the Americas); specimen prints (here made by capturing botanical, animal, and hair images in celluloid); and experimental film (using various liquids to distort physical reels of film containing footage of the bayou). Flowing within and between these lines of inquiry are violent histories of colonization, genocide, slavery, displacement, ecological destruction, capitalist infrastructure, and tourism—alongside the art, music, culture, and passionate resistance that continue to thrive in spite of these brutal systems.