

CLAUDIA SALAMANCA  
THE CATASTROPHE OF THE PRESENT



BRADBURY ART MUSEUM  
AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

*The Catastrophe of the Present* is a video essay that questions how an image of a disaster should look and which gaze is imposed on it in our current media landscape. Specifically this video essay works through four “catastrophic events” and their images: the Mojave Desert with its military bases, drone program and nuclear-exercises (Present), the siege of the Palace of Justice in Bogotá, Colombia by the guerrilla group M19 (1985), volcanically induced mudslides that destroyed the town of Armero (Colombia, 1985) and the massacre in the town of Chengue committed by the right wing paramilitary group AUC (Colombia, 2001). In this video these events and their images are invited to play in gaze exercises through the montage of archival footage, movies, speculation and interview to those cameramen who recorded the images of such disasters.

- Claudia Salamanca



front and back: *The Catastrophe of the Present*  
2016, video essay, detail

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BRADBURY ART MUSEUM

201 Olympic Drive | Jonesboro, AR 72401

| 870 972 3471

| BradburyArtMuseum.org

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