The History Machine & Arrêt Sur Images

Collective history is like a machine, in that it either recycles or crushes anonymous individual memories. What we need is another type of machine, or at least some sort of mechanism, to stop time and the ruthless progression of history. Hitting the brake would create an opportunity to probe into or extract dignity and meaning from the living. The “rear-view mirror” being the secular version of Walter Benjamin’s “Angelus Novus”, both terms refer to the state where the storm of progress pushes people toward the future, while the past is always in the field of vision, although there are slight differences in their postures: rise and fall of various media as well as incessant stacks of disasters.

Originating from modern dromology, the storm has raged well into the contemporary world and its potential future, now an incessant progression of technology and bio-politics. The purpose of record keeping is often to preserve the past. Through a dialog between the artists KAO Chung-Li and David Claerbout, we will find out what other vertu is reflected in their works. This is a question that will start the conversation.

CHEN Tai-Sung陳泰松 2023/03/16