

Factoids by Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs

The work of Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs is expressed as much through photography as through installation art. In 2006 they set out from New York City and across the United States over land, from east to west, following major and minor roads. They apply their poetics of the absurd to the American landscape and its mythical cultural icons: The Grand Canyon, the endless straightaway, the motel, hamburger and fries.

The title of the series, Factoids, is a term borrowed from Norman Mailer that designates the superfluous items of information – often found in the press – expressly manufactured for the purpose of emotionally manipulating the reader. The photographs of Krebs and Onorato each represent a fabrication and hyperbole the myth. Yet the artists make no effort to conceal their artifice and openly portray how they are literally pulling the strings of the image. We see a street, a highway, palm trees, and muscle cars. A road collapses in the foreground and, on either side of the image, tripods support the collapsed road. Using cardboard paper, it is an attempt to remake a symbol of American landscape photography: Joel Sternfeld's *After a Flash Flood*. Through their series of tinkered and delirious scenes, they irreverently remodel the American countryside to make it their giant playground.

Raphaëlle Stopin, Paris 2007

„Terrains d'Entente / Contemporary Landscapes“, Rencontres d'Arles, 2007