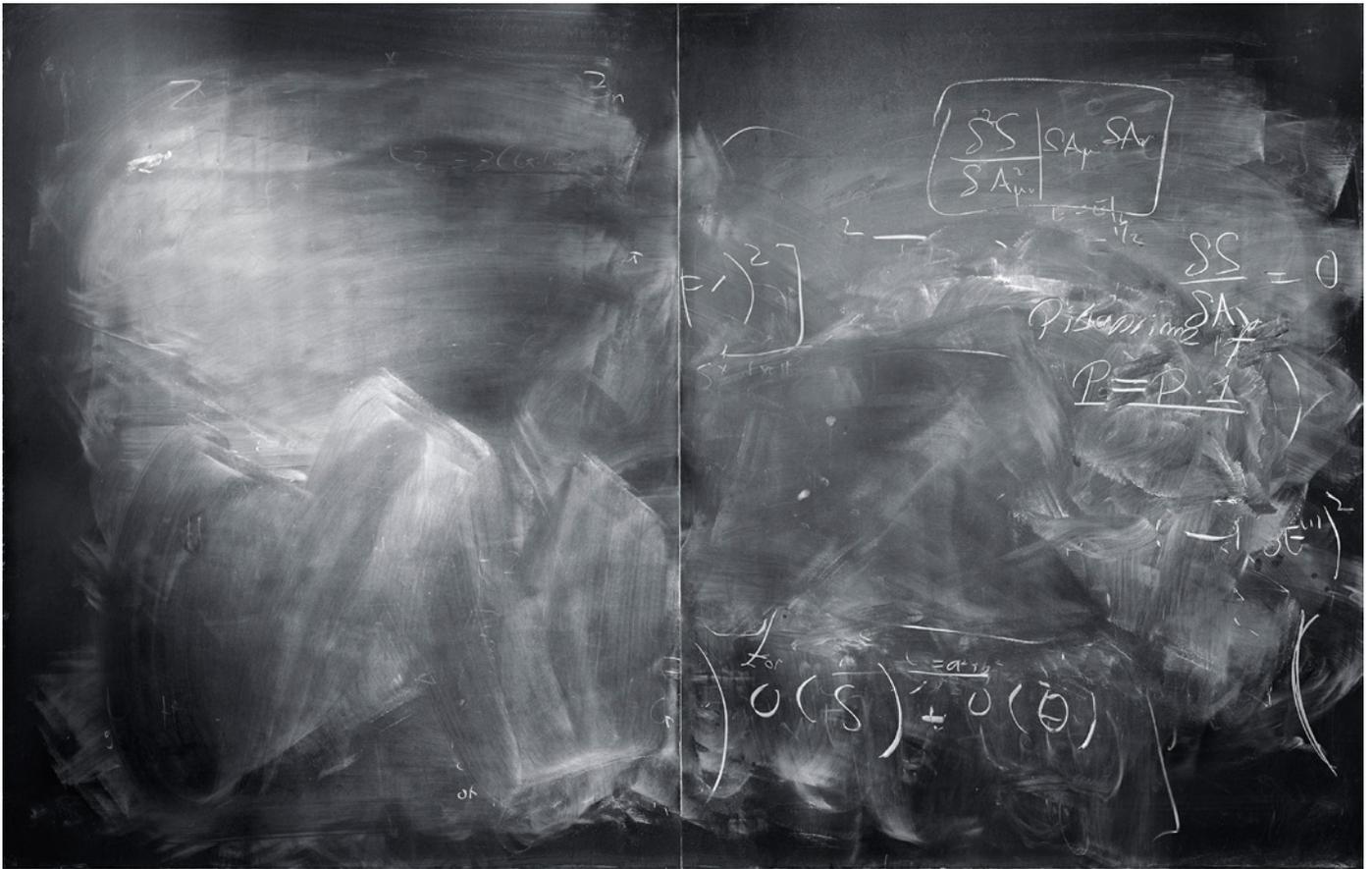


Alejandro Guijarro

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Alejandro Guijarro, *MIT IV* (2013), C-type print, 112 x 175 cm, edition of 5

Momentum is a 3-year project in which Alejandro Guijarro travelled to the greatest quantum mechanics institutions in the world.

Using a large-format camera he photographs the blackboards as he finds them, and then produces the photographs at a 1:1 scale. Before he walks into a lecture hall, Guijarro has no idea what he will find. He begins by recording the blackboard with the minimum of interference. No detail of the lecture hall is included, the blackboard frame is removed and we are left with a surface charged with abstract equations.

At this stage they are documents.

However, once removed from their institutional beginnings, their meaning evolves. The viewer begins to appreciate the equations for their line and form. Colour comes into play and the waves created by the blackboard eraser suggest a vast landscape or galactic setting.

The formulae appear to illustrate the worlds of quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that provides the only understanding we have of the world of the very small.

What began as a precise lecture, a description of the physicist's thought process, is transformed into a canvas open to any number of possibilities. Without quantum mechanics, chemistry would still be in the Dark Ages, and there would be no science of molecular biology, no understanding of DNA, no genetic engineering at all. In his quest, Guijarro has travelled to the very best departments of quantum mechanics, including Oxford and Cambridge in the UK, Berkeley, Stanford and SLAC (The National Accelerator Laboratory) in America, CERN in Switzerland and the Instituto de Física Corpuscular in Valencia.

These are not works that pretend to hold any kind of objective truth. Stripped of their wrapping, they are photographs of large drawings. Yet the process of finding, documenting and collecting them has a transmutational effect. The colourful equations remind us of Basquiat's formulaic language, and the white chalk evokes Cy Twombly's later canvases. Each line and smudge has its own history and meaning, produced by a scientist unaware of their artistic merit.

Momentum can be seen as an attempt to bridge the gap between science and art, and as an exciting development in contemporary photography.

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Selected Exhibitions	2018
	<i>Geometrica</i> , Tristan Hoare, London, United Kingdom
	2017/2018
	<i>Remnants</i> , Galerie HUIT, Hong Kong
	2017
	<i>LEAD</i> , Tristan Hoare, London, United Kingdom
	2015
	<i>Momentum</i> , Marlborough Gallery, Madrid, Spain
	2014
	<i>New Order: British Art Today</i> , Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom
	<i>Photography 2.0. PHotoEspaña14</i> , Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain (Curated by Joan Fontcuberta)
	<i>Blackboard – Art from Teaching / Learning from Art</i> , Artipelag, Gustavsberg, Sweden
	2013
<i>Momentum</i> , Espace Quai n°1, Festival Images, Vevey, Switzerland	
<i>New Order: British Art Today</i> , Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom	

Awards and grants	2015
	Prix Pictet Photography Prize (nomination)
	2013
	PhotoEspaña13. Descubrimientos (finalist)
	2011
Festival international de Mode et de Photographie a Hyères (nomination)	
2009	
Man Photography Prize (finalist)	
The Royal College of Art Bursary (winner)	
The Villiers David Travel Award (winner)	

Permanent collections	The Davis Museum, Massachusetts, USA
	The Goetz Collection, Munich, Germany
	Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
	The Frank Suss Collection, London, UK