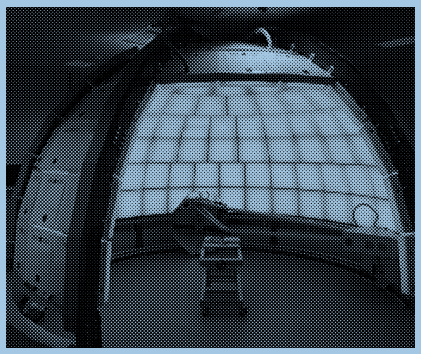


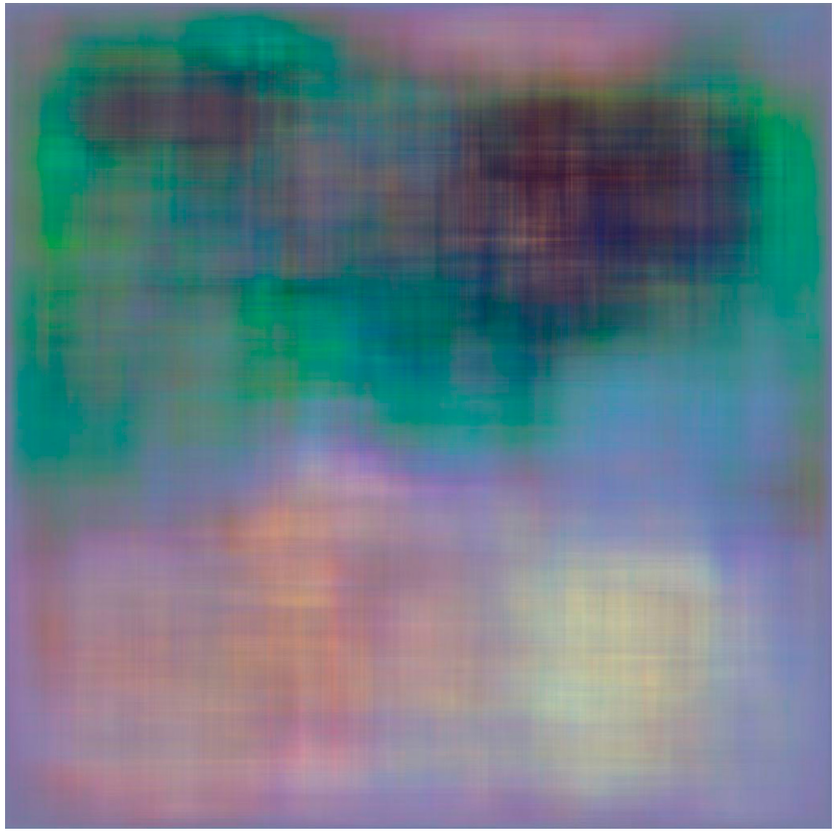
I Know Exactly What I Have Photographed

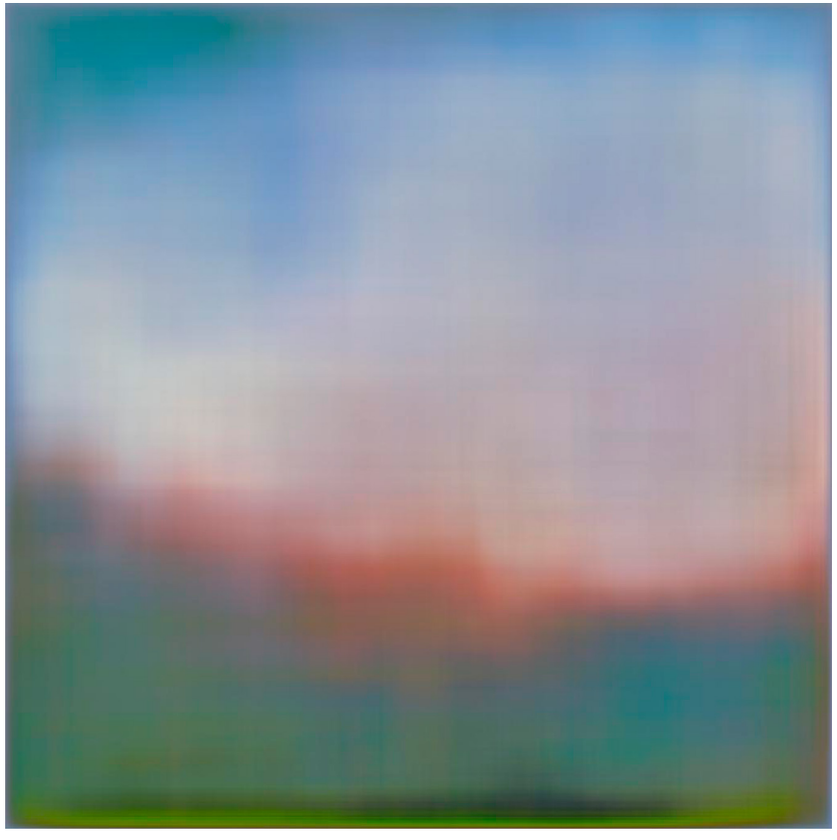
Dominika Červená

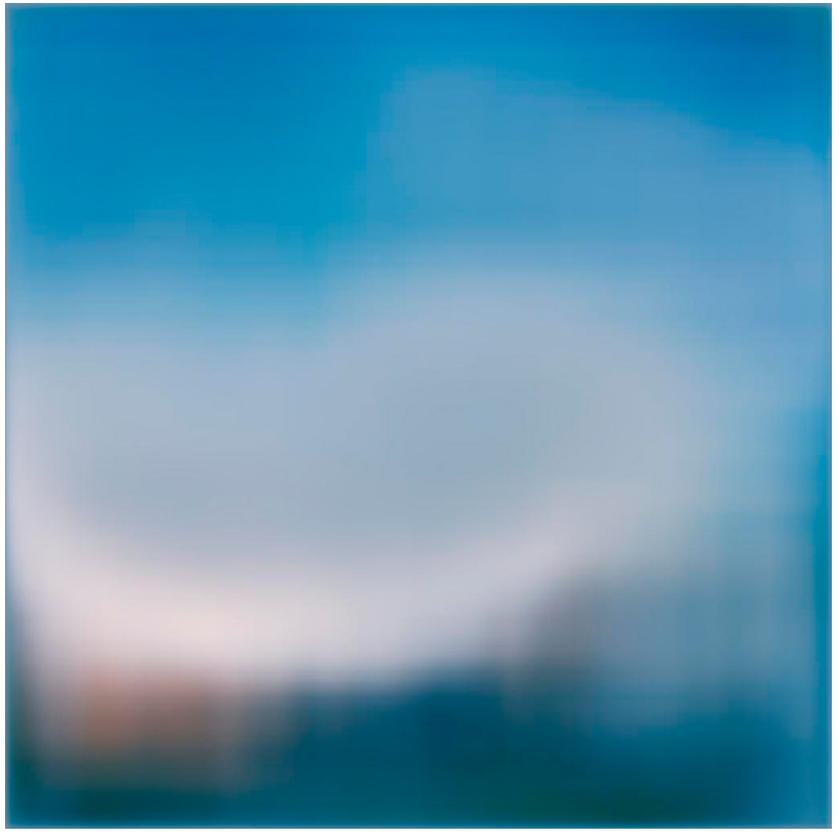
In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality.

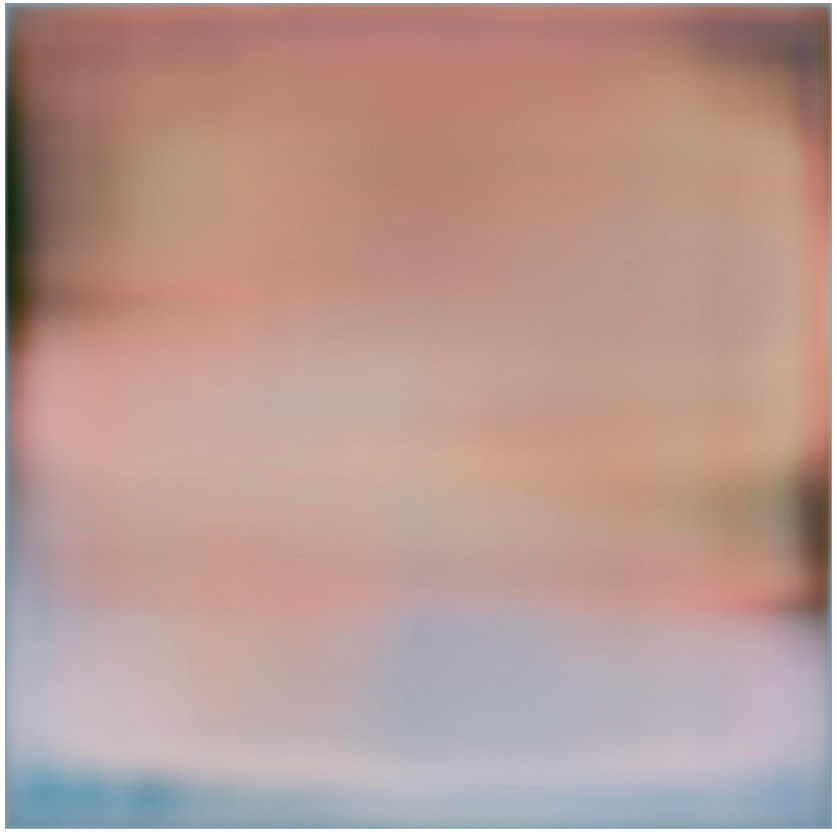
Alfred Stieglitz

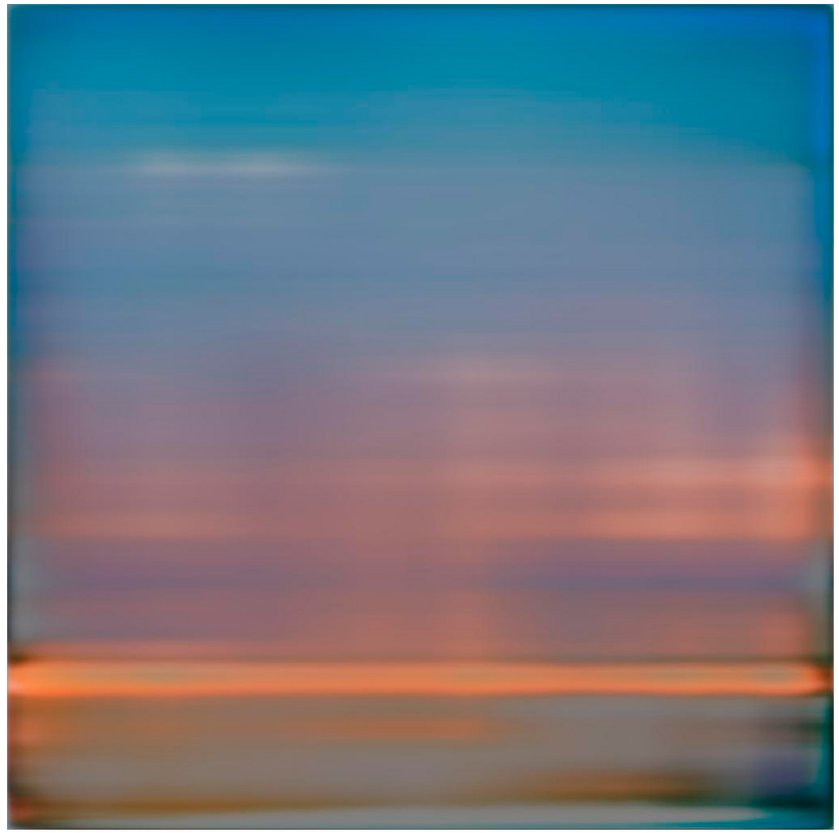
I.

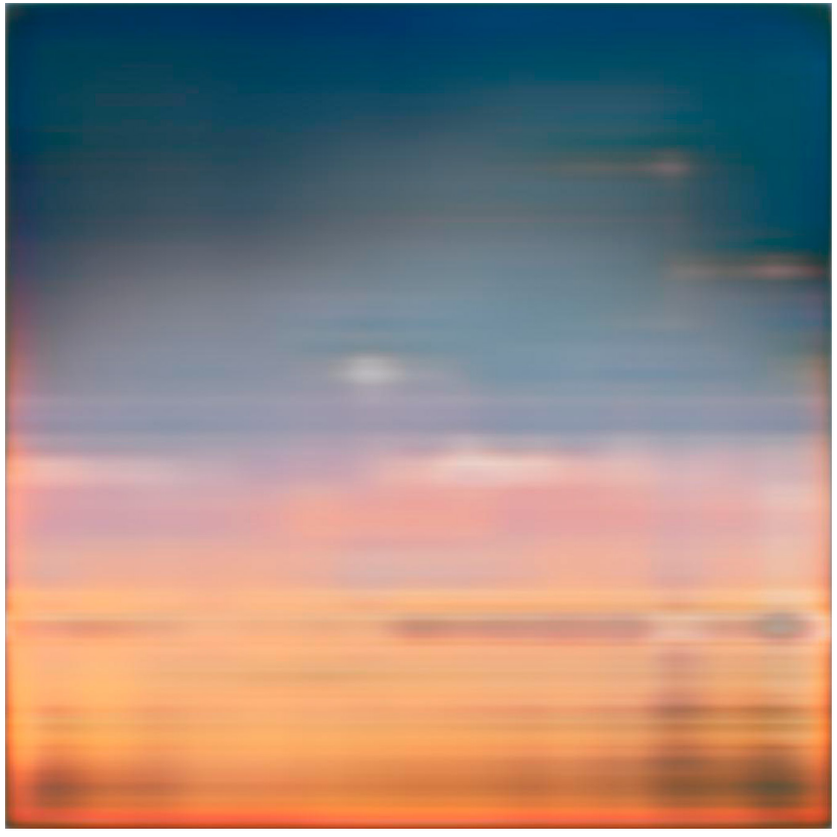


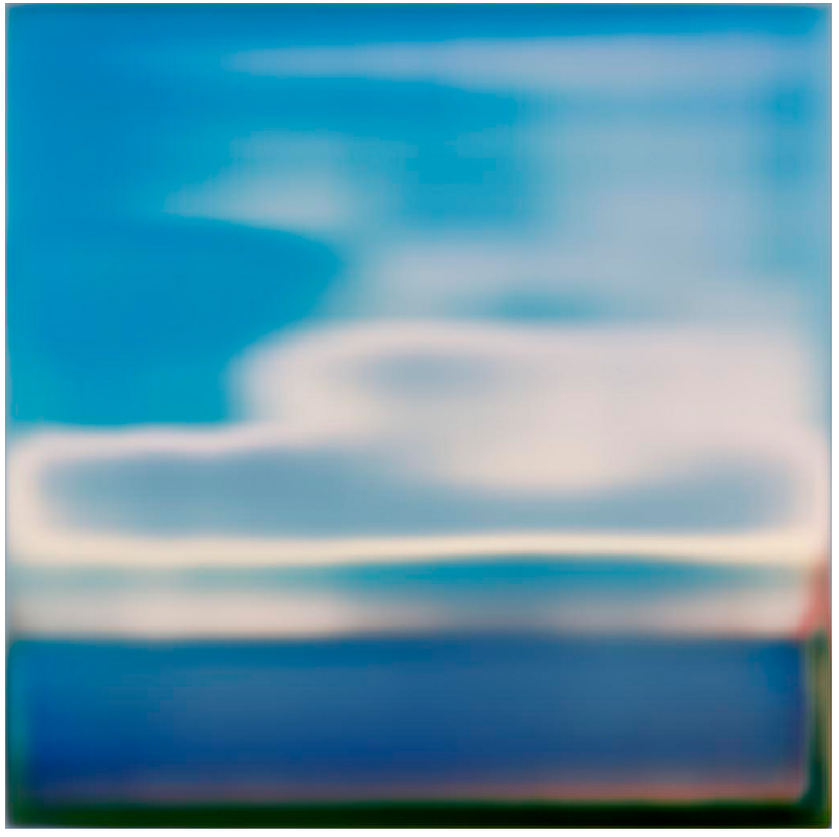


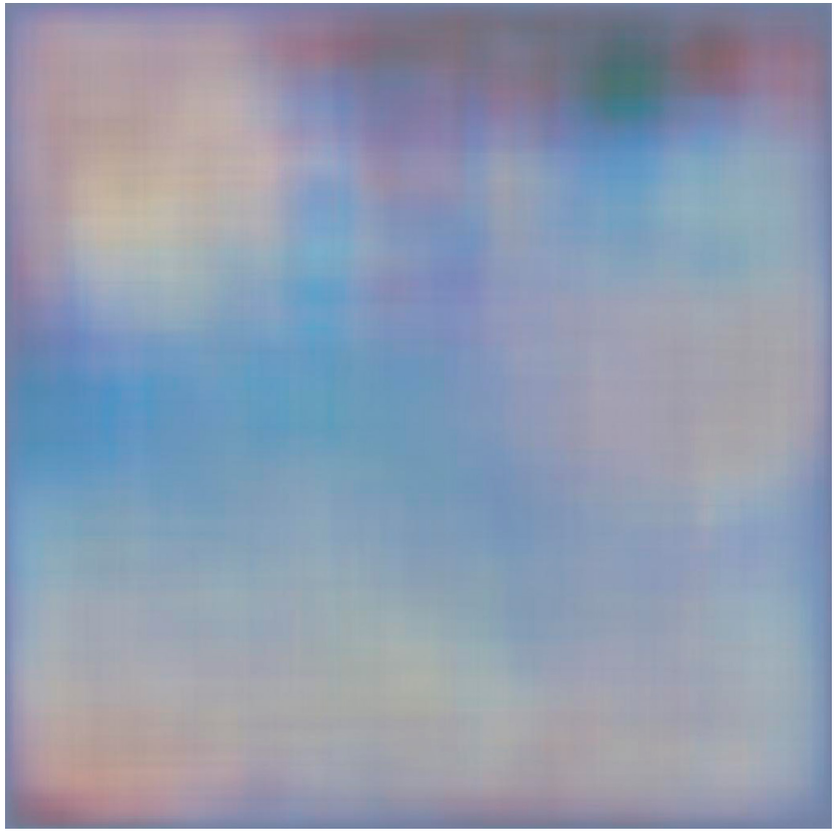


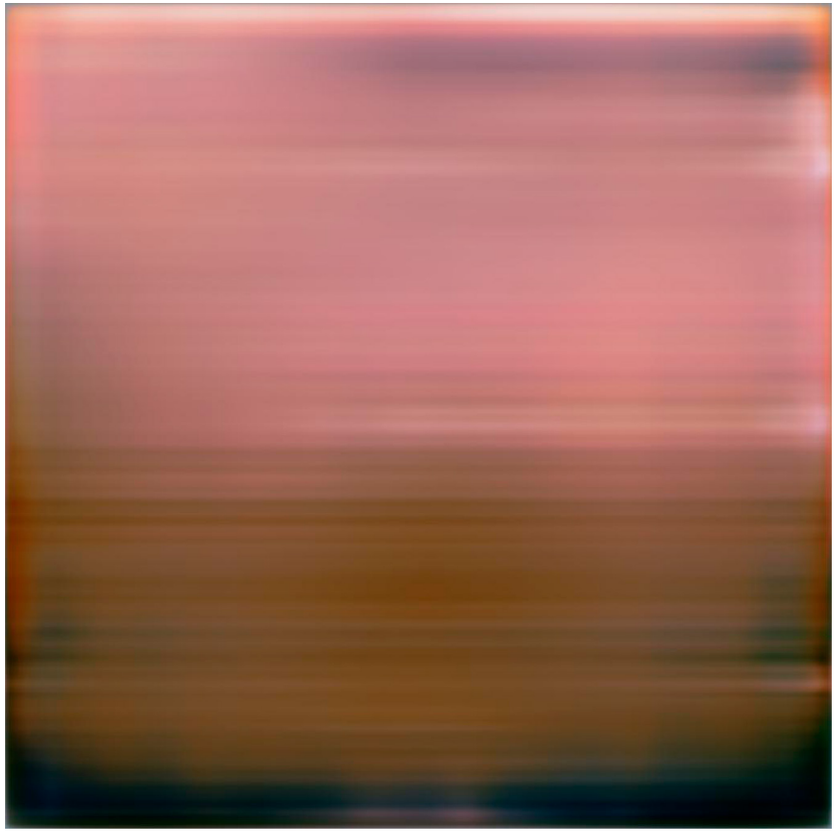


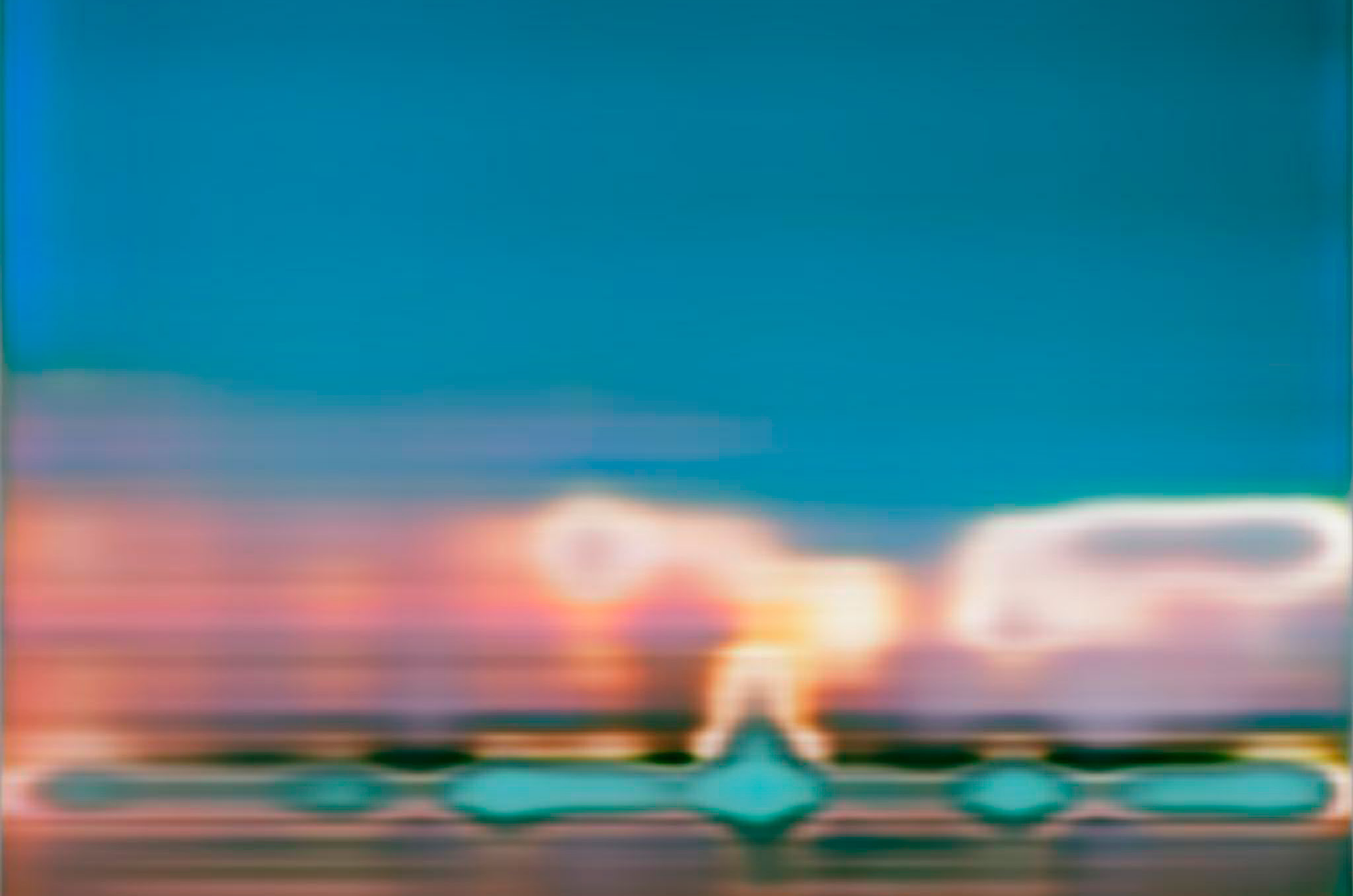


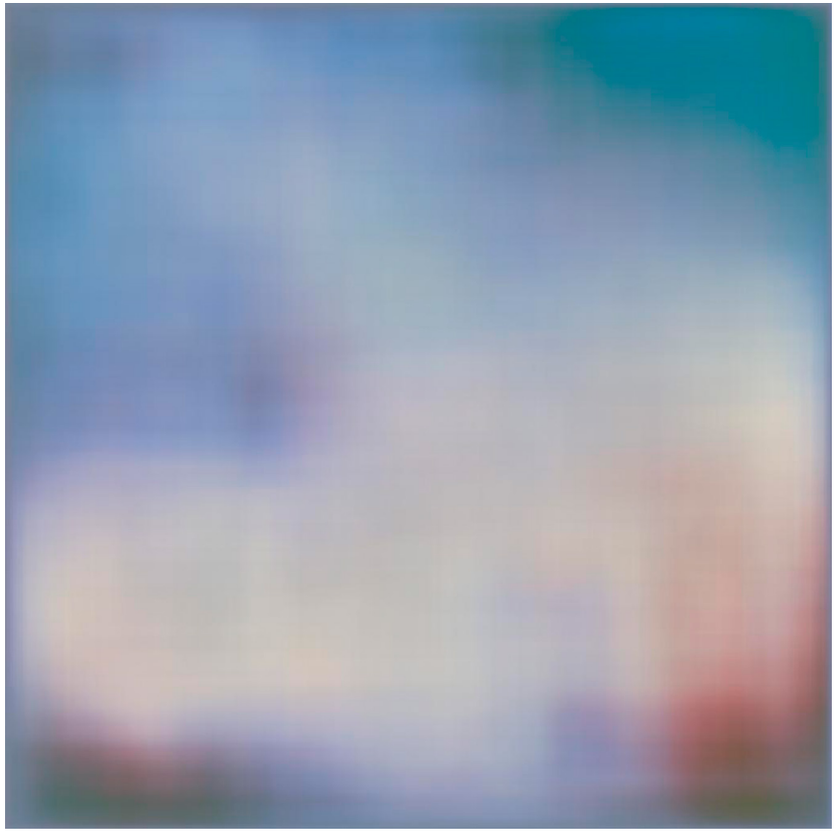


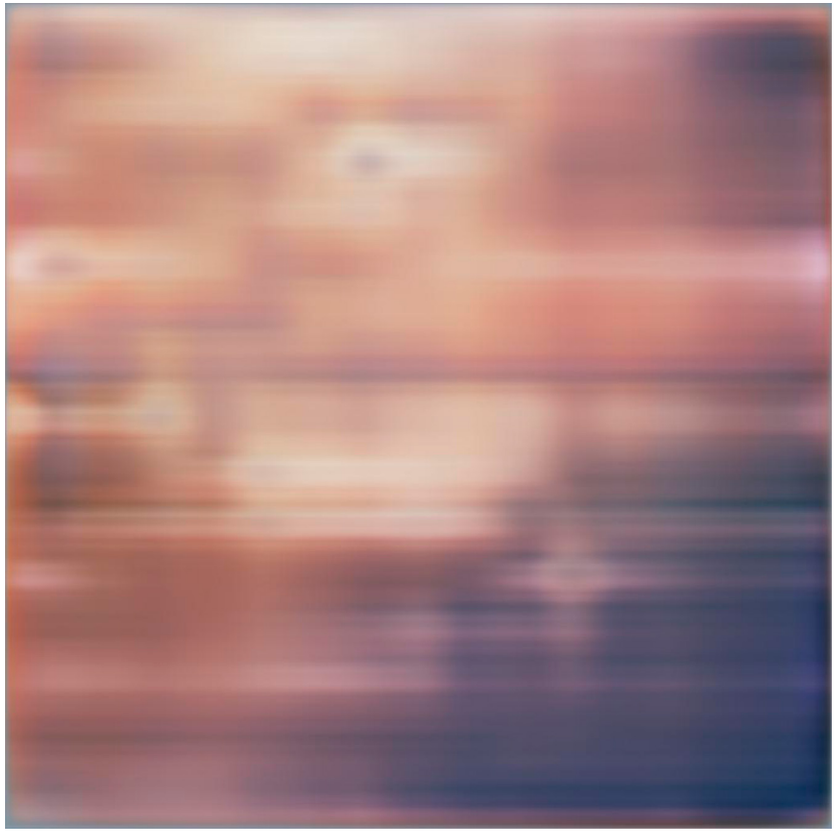


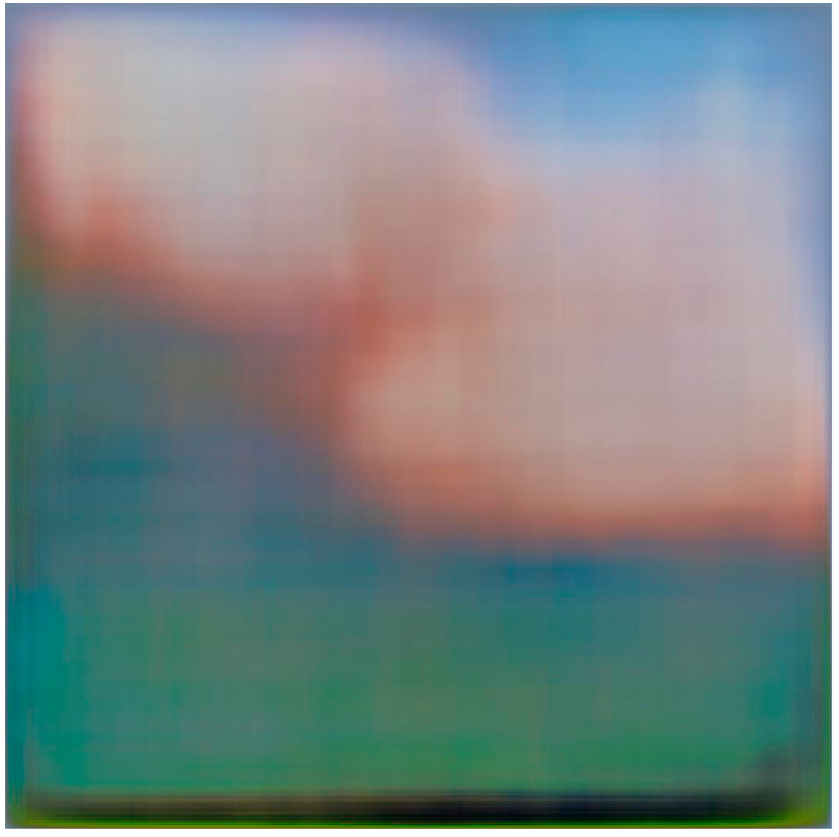




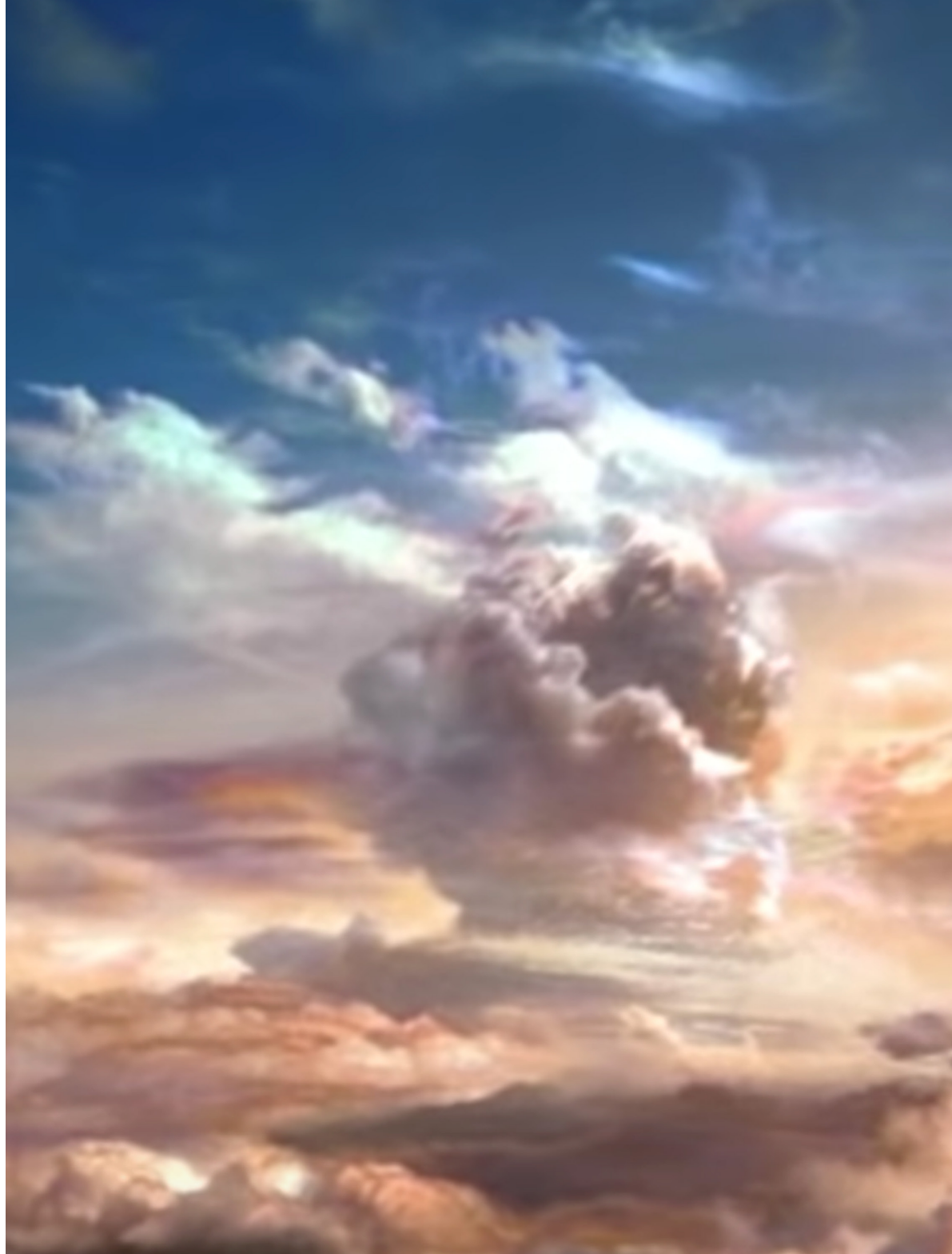








II.



Afterwords

Because of wind, temperature, pressure and sunrays, there are countless ways for vapor particles to be suspended and arranged in the atmosphere. Eventually, enough moisture will condense out of the air to form a cloud. Their shape is constantly and unpredictably changing, a randomness of water molecules bonding and dancing together. Similarly, an AI-powered computer with the given task of generating images of clouds, will start analyzing real clouds in an unknown way for a real person, generating something that will have something in common with a cloud but still won't be. Random variables will occur, so random artificial clouds will be algorithmically generated.

I Know Exactly What I Have Photographed is a quote from Alfred Stieglitz about his work Equivalents, a photographic collection of clouds. Here is represented a visual research on the same topic, but focused on how computers can generate and somehow feel pictures. Regardless of the technical process of taking a photograph, the images of Stieglitz got infused by emotions, a different feeling to the picture taken, similarly to what painters did with their works. The same process happened here, but instead of taking photographs of clouds, here they're algorithmically generated. Even if they're artificial, an equivalent emotion will be generated in us in response to such a visual stimulation. On the contrary, there is a difference between humans and computers due to the fact that computers possess a mathematical algorithm which is based on binary code whereas humans are unable to perform mathematical calculations according to rules.

This book is composed of two parts: the first are the AI clouds mentioned above, on the other hand there is a collection of CGI clouds, taken by movies, games, 3D renderings and science papers, which is still digitally-made through computers, not by computers. Human hand is still present and is confronting with the other group of algorithmical images.

I Know Exactly What I Have Photographed

Pictures, Cover and Design
Dominika Červená
*CGI pictures are screenshots from various movies, videogames and online archives

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