# SECONDE JEUNESSE

2014



## STUDIO VIR ANDRES HERA

VIRANDRESHERA.COM

# SECONDE JEUNESSE

2014
Series of 3 short films & handmade publication

Filmed during a six-month stay at the Augustinian convent in Ghent, Belgium, while sharing the daily routines of the monastery.

During this stay, Vir Andres Hera learns that Pieter van Gent, one of the first Franciscan evangelizers of Mexico, had lived there before departing for the Americas in the 16th century. This coincidence becomes a working condition rather than a subject.

The three films document a series of gestures carried out inside the monastery's library and archival spaces: cleaning the tiled floor, opening and displacing catalog drawers, handling theological volumes, holding a glass slide against the light, carrying books across the patterned marble surface.

These actions oscillate between research, maintenance, and occupation. The body moves through a European archive not as visitor, but as temporary inhabitant.

Clinic Cleaning centers on custodial labor inside the library. The repetitive act of washing the tiled floor becomes a quiet intervention within a space historically dedicated to religious authority and knowledge classification.

French Chav introduces a linguistic friction. The title brings together "French," a marker of continental prestige, and "chav," a British term associated with class stigma. The juxtaposition produces a dissonance that reflects the artist's position within European institutional space: neither insider nor external observer. The archive is approached as a classed and colonial structure.

The trilogy establishes a way of working that reappears in later projects: entering institutional spaces, activating their material histories through embodied gesture, and treating the archive as a lived terrain rather than a stable repository.

Alongside the films, the project also takes the form of a handmade publication, Pieter van Gent. Conceived as a speculative notebook, the book extends the project through writing, citation, and montage. It reworks the monastery's historical and colonial entanglements into a fictional research object, where Pieter van Gent appears less as a historical figure than as a spectral presence linking the monastery to the colonial history of the Americas. The archive becomes a site of projection, repetition, and haunting.



SECONDE JEUNESSE. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2015. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



FRENCH CHAV. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2014. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.




SECONDE JEUNESSE. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2015. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



SECONDE JEUNESSE. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2015. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



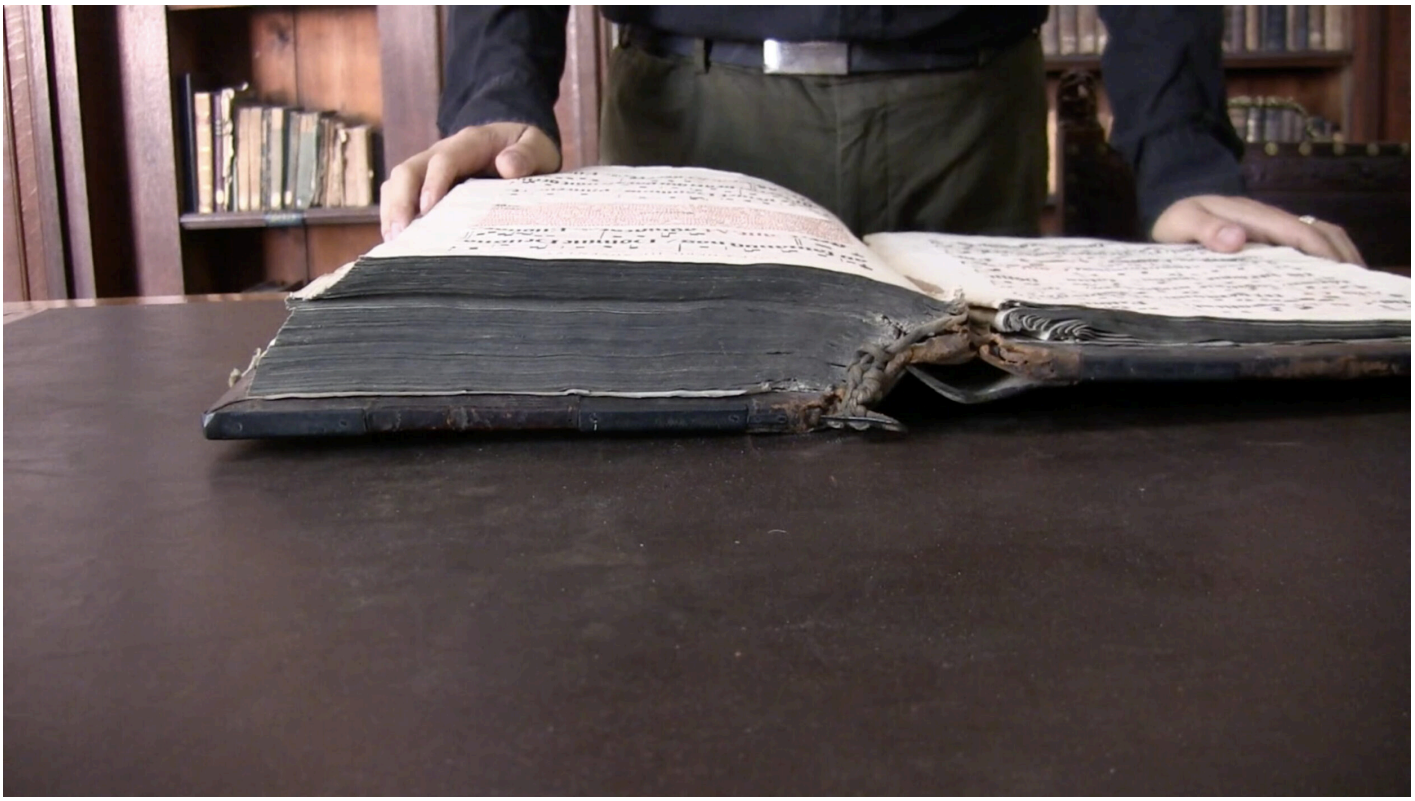
FRENCH CHAV. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2014. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



CLINIC CLEANING. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2014. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



FRENCH CHAV. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2014. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



SECONDE JEUNESSE. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2015. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



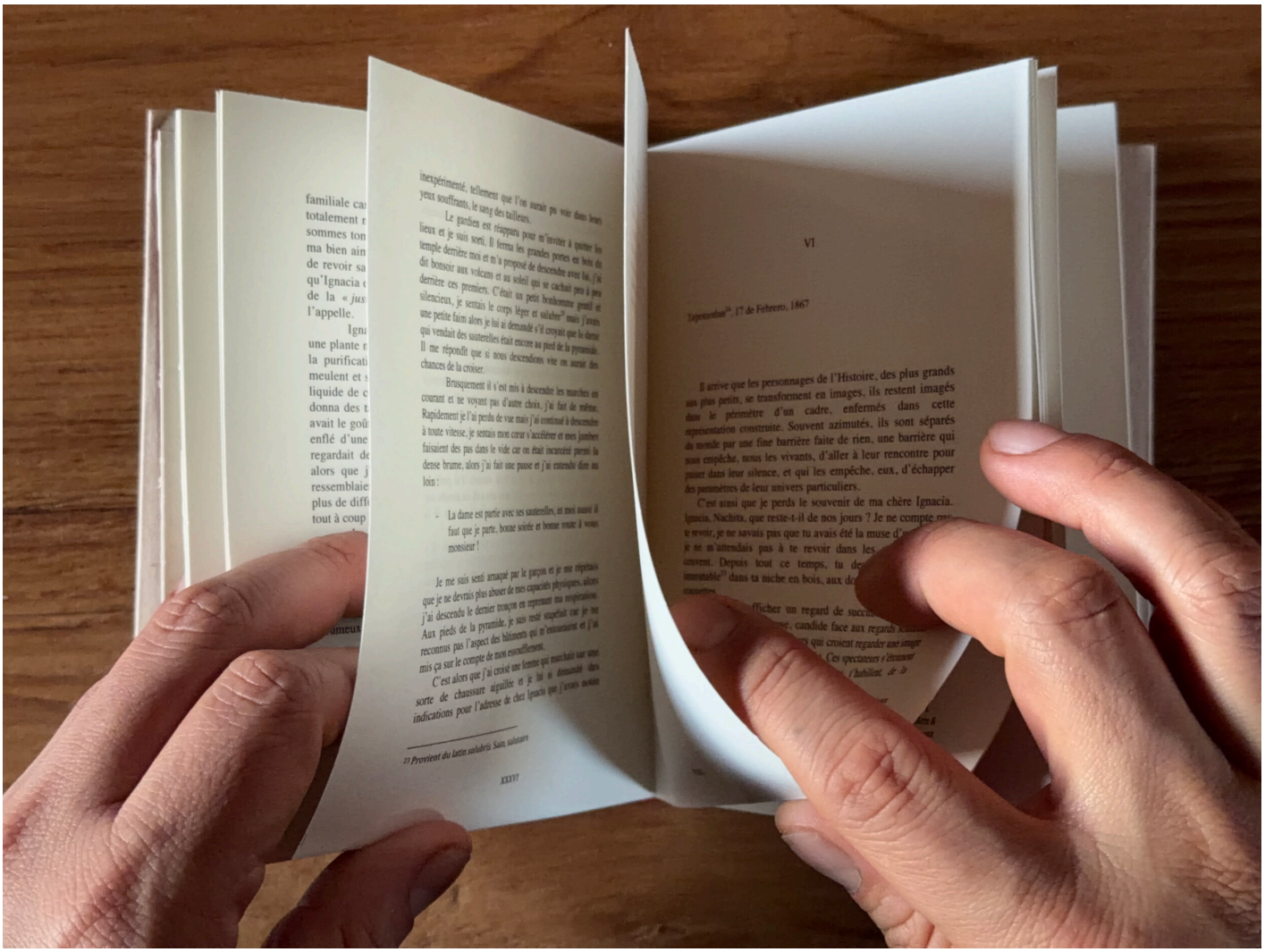
FRENCH CHAV. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2014. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



SECONDE JEUNESSE. VIDEO STILL, HD. 2015. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.




PIETER VAN GENT, HANDMADE PUBLICATION. AS PART OF THE SECONDE JEUNESSE PROJECT. 2015. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.



DETAIL: HANDMADE PUBLICATION WITH UNOPENED PAGES.

# Capsule ②



## Capsule 2.30
## Vir Andres Hera
## (Yauhquemehcan (Mexique), 1990)
## *Seconde Jeunesse, 2014-2016*

**Vidéo HD, son**
**9 '53 " en boucle**

Le travail de Vir Andres Hera consiste à lutter contre l'idée d'une péremption de la culture. Pas question de cantonner les éléments fixés par l'histoire à une culture ancienne, occidentale et élitiste, mais plutôt de nous questionner sur ce qui recule et ce qui avance ? Et ainsi de penser les histoires comme des palimpsestes foisonnants et vertigineux sur lesquels les biens culturels s'effacent et réapparaissent.

Sa démarche n'est pas archéologique : il n'exhume pas le passé, il en prolonge les sortilèges octroyant un supplément d'âme à ce que l'homme a produit dans le passé.

La vidéo *Seconde Jeunesse* fait partie d'une série de pièces traitant de la figure de Pieter van Gent, moine belge du XVI siècle qui fut l'un des premiers évangélisateurs du Mexique. Dans cette vidéo, Vir Andres Hera suit les traces de ce personnage, jusqu'à trouver le monastère dans lequel il a vécu. Il se filme en train de ranger, nettoyer et examiner des documents anciens, créant une partition sonore et spatiale qui nous questionne sur notre rapport à la conservation et à la mémoire des lieux.

*Seconde Jeunesse* a été diffusé sur la chaine ARTE Creative, et au Bethanien Kreuzberg à Berlin.

www.virandreshera.com

INSTALLATION VIEW AT HALLE NORD GENEVA. SECONDE JEUNESSE. 2016. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.



INSTALLATION VIEW AT HALLE NORD GENEVA. SECONDE JEUNESSE. 2016. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.

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