5 Evocative Artists Inspired by Google Street View

1.1k
SHARES
Share on Facebook Share on Twitter +
WHAT'S THIS?

BY YOHANA DESTA
Apr 29, 2014

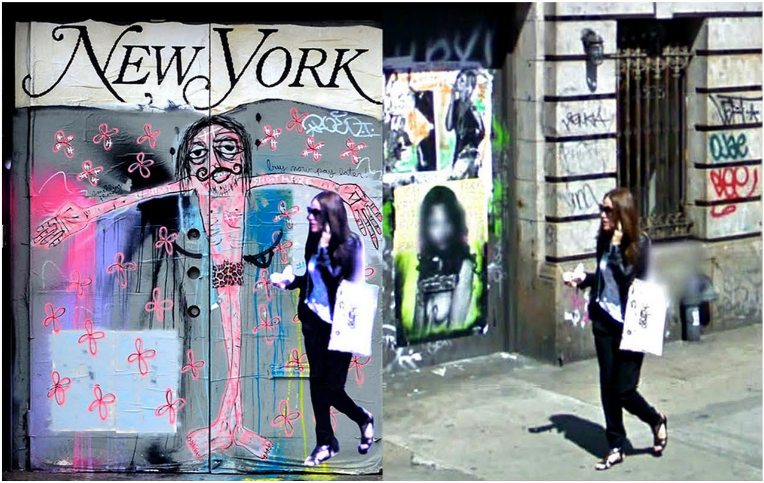
While many of us use Google Street View to creep on our own houses or find a neighborhood bar, others see the tool's potential for art.

Street View, the online map feature that shows imagery from a street-level perspective, has gathered a lot of data over the years. And plenty of creative folks are tapping that data as a palette for their latest art projects.

SEE ALSO: 36 Embarrassing Google Street View Sightings

From the surreal work of Jon Rafman to Emilio Vavarella's ethereal Google trilogy, here are five artists who paint the world with the click of a button.

1. Paolo Cirio


NEW YORK
buy now pay later!

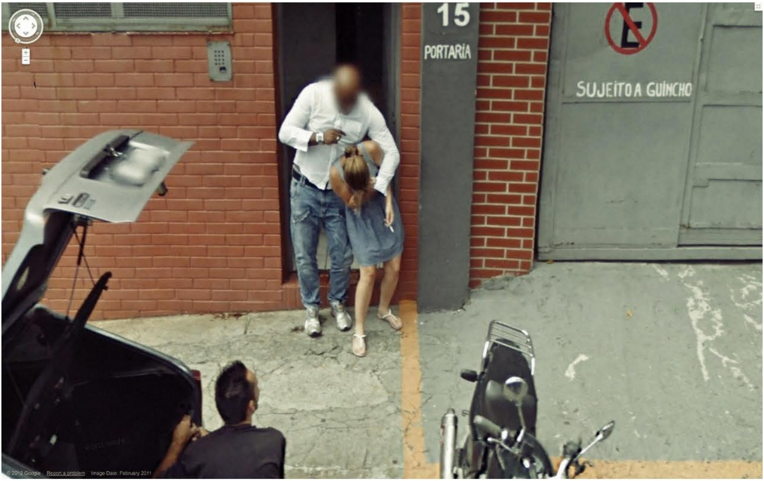
In a series called *Street Ghosts*, artist Paolo Cirio scoured for Street View images with people in them. Once he selected the image, he created a life-size poster of the people in the photos, then plastered them to the walls of the places they had been.

IMAGE: PAOLO CIRIO

Another Cioro piece at 80 East Houston Street, New York, N.Y.

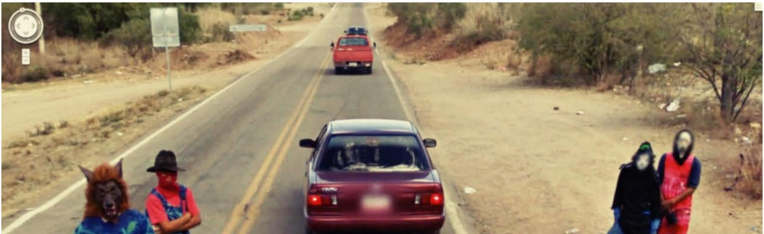
IMAGE: PAOLO CIRIO

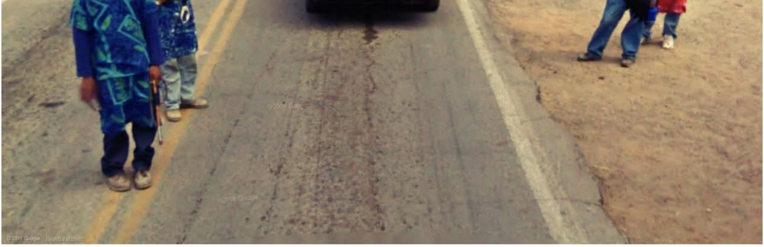
2. Jon Rafman


15
PORTARIA
SUJEITO A GUINCHO
© 2012 Google Report a problem Image Date: February 2011

Artist Jon Rafman creates surreal images by compiling the stranger photos captured by Google.

IMAGE: JON RAFMAN

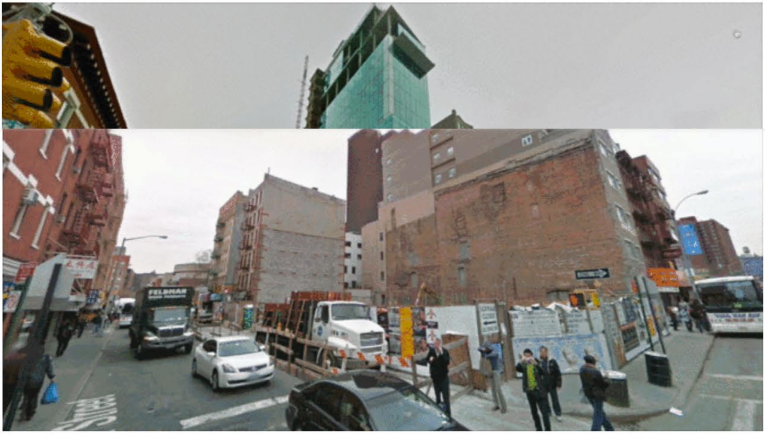



©2011 Google Report a problem

Another Jon Rafman piece.

IMAGE: JON RAFMAN

3. Justin Blinder



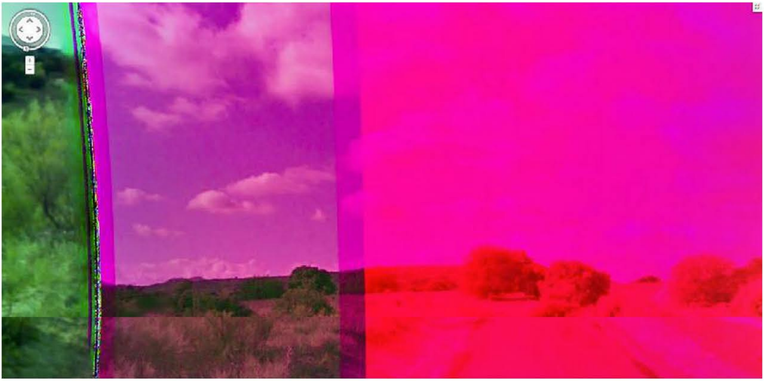
Justin Binder uses his art to create dramatic before-and-after GIFs of gentrification. The piece above is at 91-93 Bowery Street, New York, N.Y.

IMAGE: JUSTIN BLINDER

Another Justin Blinder piece, of 11 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

IMAGE: JUSTIN BLINDER

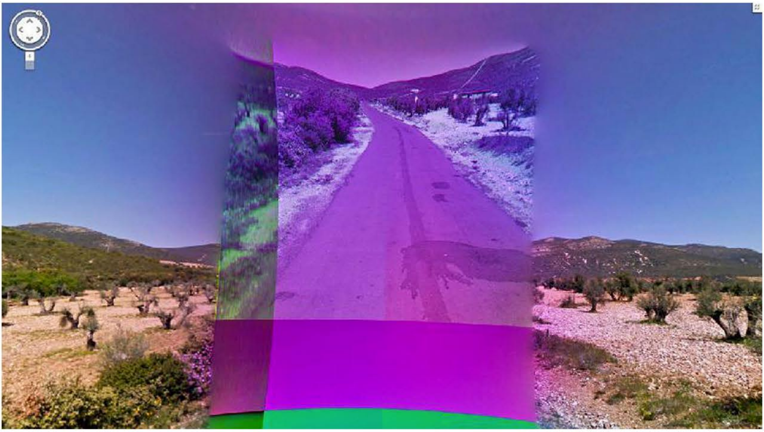
4. Emilio Vavarella



Artist Emilio Vavarella strung three separate projects together, as *The Google Trilogy*.

Above is an image from his hyper-colored series "Report a Problem," which captures images of errors on GSV.

IMAGE: EMILIO VAVARELLA



Another Vavarella image from "Report a Problem."

IMAGE: EMILIO VAVARELLA

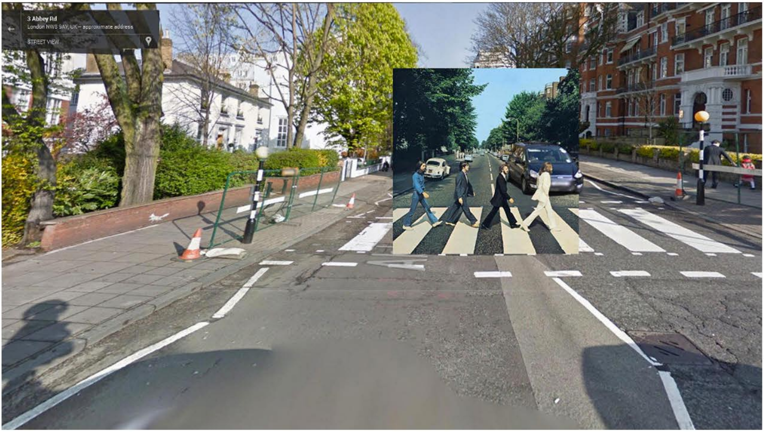
Vavarella's second series is called "Michele's Story." The photo story is a collaboration with a man named Michele, who was left paralyzed in 2007 due to an accident.

IMAGE: EMILIO VAVARELLA

Completing Vavarella's trilogy is "The Drivers and the Cameras," a trippy portrait series.

IMAGE: EMILIO VAVARELLA

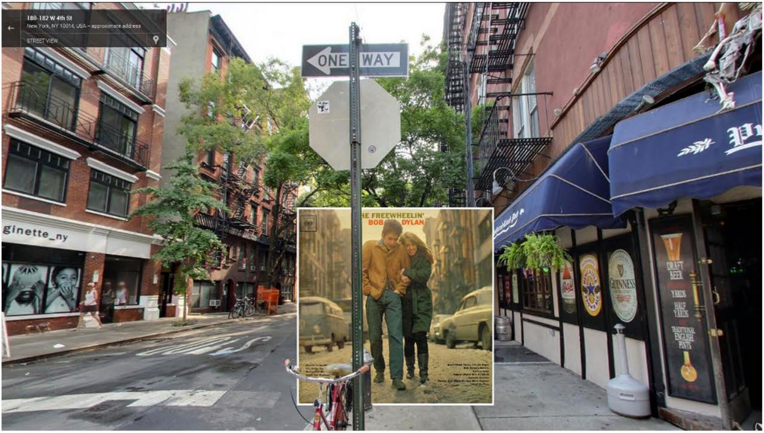
5. Halley Docherty


3 Abbey Rd
London NW8 9AY, UK – approximate address
STREET VIEW

Halley Docherty is the Google Street View specialist for British publication *The Guardian*. As such, he put his expertise to use by recreating classic album covers, pairing up the vintage photos with their modern day map counterparts.

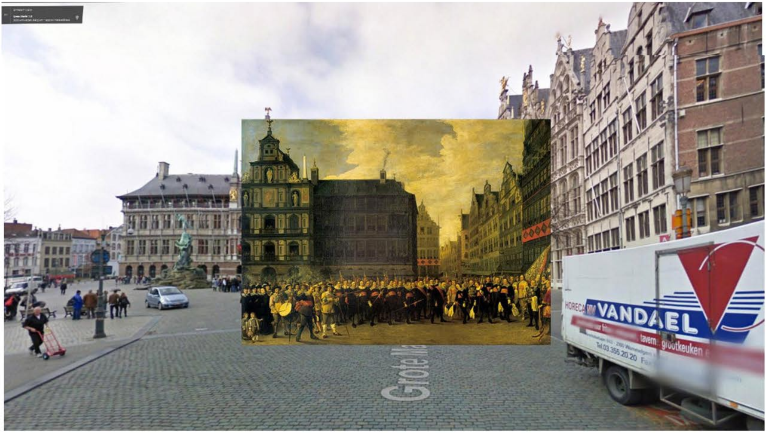
The image above is of the 1969 Beatles album *Abbey Road*, which features the Fab Four in London, walking just outside Abbey Road Studios.

IMAGE: HALLEY DOCHERTY


180-182 W 4th St
New York, NY 10014, USA – approximate address
STREET VIEW
ONE WAY
ginette_ny
HE FREEWHEELIN'
BOB DYLAN
GUINNESS
DRAFT BEER
YARDS
HALF YARDS
TRADITIONAL ENGLISH PINTS

Docherty also tackled Bob Dylan's 1963 release, *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*. The photograph of the singer arm in arm with girlfriend Suze Rotolo was taken on Jones Street in the West Village, N.Y.

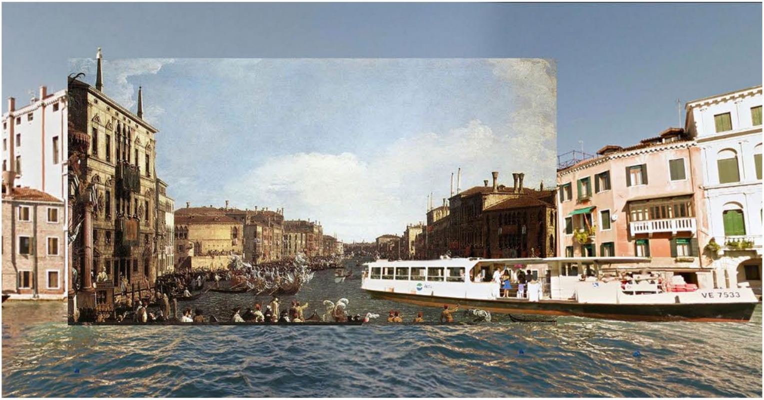
IMAGE: HALLEY DOCHERTY


Grote Ma
HORECA
VANDAEL
tavern grootkeuken
Tel.03.355.20.20

Another Docherty project superimposes historical paintings with the Street View images of today.

Above is the 1643 painting "Group Portrait of the Oude Voetboog Guild on the Grote Markt," by David Teniers II.

IMAGE: HALLEY DOCHERTY



This piece seamlessly pairs Canaletto's 1732 work "A Regatta on the Grand Canal," with Street View images of modern day Venice.

IMAGE: HALLEY DOCHERTY

Show As Gallery

Have something to add to this story? Share it in the comments.