
THE
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ART

Ellie Ga

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This Stockholm-based American artist relies on both personal experience and archival research in her riveting visual essays. In her new video, “Quarries,” completed this year, voice-over narration relays a winding account of such seemingly unrelated subjects as Ga’s brother’s paralysis, the discovery of ancient stone tools, and the neuroscience of insects. Across a three-channel projection, a pair of hands arrange objects and images on a light table, moving them from the center to the margins, and then offscreen. The triptych concludes with a fascinating history of Portuguese *calçada*, a near-extinct street-paving technique with a complex legacy—the labor was often performed by prisoners—that produced dizzying mosaics from irregularly shaped fragments of basalt and limestone. Ambitious in scope and conceptually complex, Ga’s piece has a formal simplicity and a poetically direct exposition that make its forty minutes fly by.

—*Johanna Fateman*