

The 25 Best Works of the 21st Century

This year, frieze asked 200 artists, curators, critics and museum directors to name the most outstanding works of art from the past quarter century. From their nominations, we compiled a list of 25 works that have shaped contemporary art since the year 2000.

20. HARUN FAROCKI, *SERIOUS GAMES I-IV*, 2009–10



Harun Farocki, *Serious Games 2, Three Dead*, 2010, video stills. Courtesy: © Harun Farocki

Harun Farocki's 'Serious Games', a series of four video installations, features footage recorded at various US military sites, where computer game technology was used to both treat post-traumatic stress disorder and train soldiers for combat. In one scene, a man watches a video reconstruction of an attack on a military unit; as he does so, he calmly intones: 'I remember just feeling like something bad was about to happen.' In another scene, a 3D-modelled car is driven aimlessly down a makeshift desert road, frequently veering off course into the surrounding sand. Violence is, of course, present – visualized in the games as well as described in oral testimony from soldiers – but what makes the work so unsettling, so provocative, is just how normal it all looks: a video game like any other, divorced from the US-backed wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which left hundreds of thousands dead. — *Lou Selfridge*