

ARTFORUM

The Artists' Artists

To take stock of the past year, *Artforum* contacted an international group of artists to find out which exhibitions were, in their eyes, the very best of 2008.

CARSTEN NICOLAI

Doug Aitken, *Migration* (303 Gallery at Art Basel) Amid the jostling crowds at Art Basel last June, Aitken's *Migration*, 2008, provided something of a refuge. (And it did again when shown at 303 in New York this past fall.) Refusing narrative, the video contains a sequence of seemingly incongruous scenes—from a beaver wading in a bathtub to a gelding poised bedside at a motel. There is neither dialogue nor any discernible sense of linear time, only Aitken's mesmerizing imagery, which struck me as a series of cinematic paintings and reminded me of what it felt like to watch Wim Wenders's *Paris, Texas* for the first time.