

THE FACTS OF THE VOYAGER

On March 14, 2020, NASA announced the *Voyager II* probe's course change, without being able to determine its cause or regain control. The probe was on its way back to Earth after 43 years of travel, and nothing could be done.

Launched into space in 1977, the probe's mission was to explore the Solar System and beyond, sending a disc (the Golden Record) that collected 115 images and sounds in order to describe humanity to possible extraterrestrial intellectuals.

In 2040 the probe is picked up in space and its return is accelerated. In 2046 it was deposited at the Houston base. But the illusion was short-lived. NASA made it public that it was a hacking carried out in 2020 from Earth. Someone had tapped into the telemetry signal and navigation commands. But they had also inserted a small neural network in the probe's computer that helped it to look at the Golden Record photos by itself during the long years of the return trip.

The action was attributed to a self-styled unfuture art collective after the dissemination of a video recorded in 2020, claiming "deferred" political practices to defuse predictions. The *Voyager* events represented a singular blow to the debates of the 2050s on the «battles of time» in the new oracular capitalism dominated by urgencies.

Eva Jaisset wondered: «When did the 21st century begin to be written: in 2020, when no one knew anything, or in 2046, when secretly planted seeds hatch, forcing decades of fanfare to be rewritten?».