Beyond Surveillance
curated by Manu Luksch

international video programme (62 min) featuring works by **The Bureau of Inverse Technology, Paula Barreto, U.R.A. Filoart, Yangachi, Caspar Below, Manu Luksch, Michelle Teran** and **David Valentine/MediaShed.**

which are exposing legal, social, and aesthetic dimensions of CCTV surveillance systems through artistic investigation.

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1. network hack

Michelle Teran. Life: A User's Manual
Life: A User's Manual. Berlin Walk [Germany 2005; 4'32"]

Life: A User's Manual is a series of performances that exposes and examines the hidden stories captured by private wireless CCTV streams and how they are overlaid with the more tangible and perceptible spaces of the city.

Canadian artist Michelle Teran is the winner of the transmediale Award 2010. Her work explores the interplay between social and media networks within urban environments, She uses performative action, many times involving public participation, to articulate the relation of media to the body and architecture by staging urban interventions such as tours, walks, outdoor projections, participatory installations and happenings. These projects involve working within different locations, social and cultural contexts and are the direct results of occupying spaces and cultivating exchanges.
www.ubermatic.org

David Valentine / MediaShed. CCTV Video Sniffin 1: The Commercial [UK 2006; 1'52"]

In this piece by filmmaker David Valentine, made as part of MediaShed's activities, the rocordings are retrieved through hacking wireless CCTV in Southend's streets.
"Everywhere we go today we are constantly under surveillance by CCTV networks. Video Sniffin' is way to turn these security devices into your own environmental television studio by plucking the wireless signals from the air and capturing them to your own recording device. Why bother to buy a camera when there are so many already within the environment?"
www.daveonzo.com, www.gearbox.mediashed.org

Yangachi. Surveillance Drama: King Kong [Korea 2008; 6' 11'']

Yangachi created a series of 'remakes' of film classics through interception of wirless CCTV in public-private spaces in Seoul.

One of the most adventurous and radical young media artists active in Korea today, Yangachi comes from a sculpture background and has become renowned for his large-scale narrative installations fusing a wide variety of media: Radio, Video, Sculpture, Designer Objects, Text, Web-based elements into a rich and immersive experience. Yangachi's recent work is structured around narratives which evoke themes of contemporary Korean identity. His current piece, *Middle Corea*, explores a mythical transitional zone between North and South Korea with a stark and slightly mournful aesthetic.
Yangachi.org

2. counter-veillance

Manu Luksch. Mapping CCTV around Whitehall [UK 2008; 3'00"]

Two-part exercise to map CCTV cameras around Whitehall, London, within a zone covered by SOCPA (Serious and Organized Crime and Police Act 2005). A map of the hundreds of cameras in the zone was made over two days of observation. The second part involved mapping the range of one of these cameras, no. 40 in Villiers Street, by intercepting its signal as it was transmitted wirelessly without encryption. As passers-by entered the marked area covered by camera no. 40, they were alerted to the camera's presence and handed a copy of the map of CCTV cameras in Whitehall. Public screenings included 'Films by Manu Luksch' at Centre Pompidou (2009), Betting on Shorts (2009), NHK Japan (Japanese National Television, 2008), LIFT (2008)

Manu Luksch is intermedia artist whose practice interrogates conceptions of progress through the devising of tools and frameworks and the instigation of processes, with a strong emphasis on research and dissemination. Her focus is on the effects of emerging technologies on daily life, social relations, urban space, and political structures – specifically, the limits of permission and injunction, the thresholds and constraints of public space, and the traces of data that accumulate in digital networked societies.

The Bureau of Inverse Technology. BIT Plane [UK/USA 1999; 13 min]
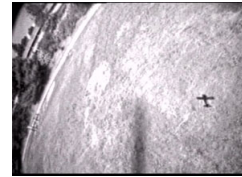
BIT plane is a highly compact spy plane, wingspan 20 inches: radio-controlled, video-instrumented and deployed over areas of scenic interest. Due to its refined dimensions bit plane is able to enter territory inaccessible to other aircraft. Pioneering flight: in an aerial reconnaissance over the Silicon Valley California 1997, *BIT plane* flew solo and undetected into the glittering heartland of the Information Age. Video generated in this exercise includes footage retrieved over no-camera zones Apple, Lockheed, Nasa Ames, Netscape, Xerox Parc, Interval Research, Atari, Hewlett Packard, Oracle, Yahoo, SGI, Sun Microsystems.

The Bureau of Inverse Technology (aka bit / BIT) is an organisation of artist-engineers whose stated aim is to be an "information agency servicing the Information Age". Bureau engineers, so-called BIT agents, are involved from design to deployment and documentation of radical products based on commercially available electronic entertainment components such as cameras, radios, networks, robots, sensors etc.

Caspar Below. Sensitive Building. [UK 2007, 6'00"]

London's built environment 'exposed'.

Caspar Below is an artist experimenting with our relationships to communities, technology and power. Previous projects have involved audiences in re-enacting crowd control, finding new parent memories for orphaned family photos and answering a multitude of inquiries via text message as the SMS Oracle. He set up pirate radio broadcasts in a Northern Irish village and used secret filming to map the no-go aura of governmental buildings by stepping into its sensitive zones. More recently he collected bad advice and disposed of it in a series of cleansing rituals as well as running workshops training South Londoners in DIY techniques of urban mass evacuation.
www.casparbelow.com

3. strategic crack

U.R.A. Filoart. I.-R.A.S.C. (Infrared light against surveillance cameras) Lecture [Germany 2007; 5´30´´]

I.-R.A.S.C. is a wearable, infra-red device working as a protection shield from infra-red surveillance cameras. The videos demonstrate its outdoor use and explain how to create your own.

U.R.A. is one of the eight groups that emerged out of FILOART, an anonymously and interdisciplinary working artists collective, based in Berlin.

Caspar Below. Now available to the public! [UK 2002, 4'23'']

The artist is shown reading out letters, which explain why video recordings of himself could not be supplied. He had requested his image data, captured by CCTV, under the Data Protection Act (1998). All he re received were negative response, letters, which substitute the requested footage for this film.
www.casparbelow.com

4. anti-performance

Manu Luksch. The Eye – Choreography for surveilled space. [UK 2005; 4' 00"]

The Eye is a site-specific dance piece for a minimum of 70 performers, developed as a humorous homage to the Busby Berkeley Hollywood revue movies. The choreography unfolds like a kaleidoscope and is filmed from above and screened on surveillance system operators whose vantage point is shared by the audience. The project took place at Lakeside Shopping Centre (in collaboration with The Ballet Boyz) and Brentford Housing Estates.
www.ambientTV.NET

Paula Barreto Jogo. Dos Sete Erros / Find 7 Errors [Brazil 2009; 2 min]

07 errors was composed of CCTV footage from a building in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro during a two day workshop at the Festival "Dança em Foco". The concept was to develop, with the participants, patterns of movements for spaces under surveillance, creating a kind of choreography.
The workshop aimed to explore notions of control, normality, absurdity, prejudice and boredom, and employed techniques such as repetitions, backward actions, mirrorrings and other viewpoint .

"Improvisation work in a corridor of the festival building was interrupted by the security guard. A discussion followed about what is allowed and what is forbidden. To whom do the images belong?
Our request for the footage was responded, we received 25 minutes of recordings from two cameras. Playing with an old cinema effect - reversing the image - we placed CCTV footage - usually taken as testimony of facts - in the field of doubt and fiction."*paoleb*

paoleb is a visual artist, researcher and lecturer. Born in 1971, she lives and works in Rio de Janeiro and has been designing video circuits for film, theatre, performance and exhibitions since 2002. In 2009 she obtained her Master degree in Technology and Aesthetics with the thesis "Composition for Video Surveillance".

David Valentine / MediaShed. Duellists [UK 2006; 7 min]

Free-running meets free-media film when two late night traceurs are caught on CCTV as they engage in an acrobatic competition in the Manchester Arndale shopping centre. Filmed using only the in-house CCTV network with a soundtrack created from the environmental noises recorded during production. Free-running uses uninterrupted movement adapting motion to obstacles in the environment while free-media film adapts environmental and discarded hardware making filmmaking more accessible to all.

 www.daveonzo.com

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