EN   Trevor Paglen

How Deep is the Ocean
How High is the Sky

The show is named after a popular song of Irving Berlin from 1932, a year so many times compared to 2016, pierces through Paglen's practices as a photographer, writer and activist in a never-ending quest to uncover hidden structures of the political climate of mass surveillance society. His work leads us by means of an almost romantic, impressionistic imagery to places seemingly lacking any significance, but which in reality shelter secret radar sites, data storages, underwater transcontinental internet connections, etc. Walls covered with a long list of Code Names used by US secret agencies representing their classified units, programmes and departments is overshadowed by an invisible cloud of the secured Tor network on a background of hazy drone vision photographs. Creating together a Vertical Geography, as Paglen calls it, an axis penetrating the Earth and its atmosphere, perceived with an emphasis on the omnipresence of devices which were meant to make our lives better, but in the end at the high price of losing our privacy.

1849
HOT AIR BALLOON BOMBING
First drone strike in history. August 22nd 1849. Venice was bombarded by unmanned balloons launched by the Austrians. The experimental approach of using hot air balloons, which carried ordnance, was a consequence of the actual topography of Venice. Since the city was surrounded by water, the Austrian artillery could not intrude. This incident is also the first known use of aerial bombing.

1858
NADAR AND J. W. BLACK
The photographer, caricaturist and novelist Nadar became the first person to take aerial photographs with views of Paris, same was achieved two years later in Boston through lenses of J. W. Black on board of hot-air balloon, the "Queen of the Air".

1873
PHOTOGRAPHY FOR IDENTIFICATION
In Victorian England, photography became a new form of identification of prisoners, who were previously physically branded.

1880S
FINGERPRINTS FOR IDENTIFICATION
Fingerprint characteristics were studied as far back as the mid-1600s and used as means of identification by British colonialists in India in the mid 19th century. Henry Faulds, a Scottish scientist, hit upon the idea while on an archaeological dig and soon after used it to exonerate one of his staff who was accused of robbery. Edward Henry, a British police commissioner, developed the Henry Classification System, which served to sort fingerprints by their physiological characteristics, and was the basis of the modern-day Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) which was used up until the 1990s.

1907
PIGEONS
Julius Neubronners equipped for the first time pigeons with cameras for aerial photography 1907. Since then was pigeon based espionage used in the both World Wars, also later on during the Cold War.

1932
QUEEN BEE AND DRONE
DH-82B Queen Bee was the first full production, fully-seized, reusable, pilotless aircraft that was used for anti-aircraft gunnery practice. Designed by Sir Geoffrey de Havilland from the British Air Force, amateur entomologist who would name his aircrafts after insects. In 1935, Queen Bee was introduced to the US Navy, who started developing their own version of the plane and designated it Drone, as a homage to Queen Bee.

1936
THE TURING MACHINE
A Turing machine is a hypothetical machine conceived of by the mathematician Alan Turing in 1936. Despite its simplicity, it can simulate any algorithm. The Turing machine is considered as the first mathematical model of computation and therefore is the blueprint for the modern computer. It was used at the time of its development to break a supposedly unbreakable encryption system called "Enigma", which the Nazis developed and applied during World War II.

1946
FIVE EYES ALLIANCE
The Five Eyes alliance is a secret surveillance arrangement comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. It originated as early as 1946 with a series of bilateral agreements that became known as the UKUSA agreement, with the goal of sharing intelligence, primarily signal intelligence (aka SIGINT) between the members. Since the Cold War, the alliance has been building a global surveillance infrastructure to spy on the world's communications, with an emphasis placed on monitoring the World Wide Web since the US declared its "war on terror" in 2001.

1949
ORWELL/ 1984

1946
MOONBOUNCE
A phenomenon when man-made signals emanating from Earth would bounce back from the moon and could be detected from other locations. The radar-reflective characteristics of the lunar surface were successfully tested in 1946. This phenomenon was used in the early 1960s in a US Air Force

project, codenamed FLOWER GARDEN, to monitor and intercept radar signals from the Soviet Union.

1950-60
CALIBRATION TARGETS FOR SKY SATELLITES
In the development of early aerial photography and aircraft in the 1950s and 1960s, several large-scale photo calibration targets were installed across the USA. Made of concrete or asphalt covered with black and white paint, they functioned as eye charts for the cameras of spy satellites.

1960S
ACOUSTIC KITTY
A CIA experimented with live cats as eavesdropping devices to spy on America's cold war rivals. In the operation known as "Acoustic Kitty", a cat was surgical accommodated with electronic spying equipment: a microphone in the cat's ear canal, a radio transmitter and an antenna wire along its spine and tail. It was even possible to direct it with ultrasonic sound.

1960
CORONA FIRST RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE IMAGE
Corona was a satellites program led by the CIA from 1959 to 1972. Its mission was to gather photographic intelligence, mainly of the Soviet Union.

1962
CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

1963
FIRST CIA FACIAL RECOGNITION PROPOSAL

1963
TEUFELSBERG, BERLIN
The NSA built on Teufelsberg a permanent listening station atop the mountain, to spy on its eastern Allies. The Field Station had four radomes containing large satellite antennas. With the most sophisticated spying equipment for that time, they enabled US and British intelligence to intercept satellite signals, radio waves, microwave links and other transmissions.

1966
ECHELON
The codename for a secret international electronic eavesdropping network run by the Five Eyes Alliance. Its aim was to spy on diplomatic and military communication during the Cold War by intercepting satellites. By the end of the 20th century, civil right groups and privacy advocates believe it had become the first-ever automated, global, mass surveillance program, spanning much further than intercepting satellites, but literally listening to everybody. The NSA and the GCHQ denied the existence of ECHELON. Later on internal reports, disclosed by Edward Snowden confirmed its existence.

1969
THE INTERNET

1970S
INSECTOTHOPTER
In the 1970s, the CIA built a prototype for miniature UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) for collecting intelligence in the form of a dragonfly. The insectothopter, was a robotic dragonfly that functioned as a audio bug.

1972
BLUE MARBLE
A first image to show the full disc of the Earth taken from Apollo 17 on its way to the Moon.

1972
WATERGATE

1978
COVERTACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN
CovertAction Information Bulletin was a leading progressive publication focusing on criticism of US foreign policy, the CIA, NSA, FBI, and corporate crime and repression in the US and abroad. It regularly published names of undercover agents and was targeted by Congress who passed the Intelligence Identities Protection Act in 1982, which made the practice of revealing names of agents illegal under US law.

1982
INTERNET OF THINGS

1990
HAARP
HAARP (High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program) is a former US-military program that focuses on ionospheric research, in fact to investigate potentials for developing ionospheric enhancement technology for radio communications and surveillance.

1997
THE GREAT FIREWALL OF CHINA

2001
9/11

2001
FIRST DRONE STRIKE IN WAR
On 7th of October 2001, the first day of the US-led war in Afghanistan, an armed, CIA-controlled predator drone was following the Taliban leader Mullah Omar in Kandahar. Due to communication problems, the drone, fired a hellfire missile on a truck outside the building with Omar, allegedly killing two of his bodyguards. The Taliban leader escaped during the chaos following the airstrike. This event marks the first time a modern drone killed a human being.

2002
TOR

2004
FACEBOOK

2006
TWITTER

2006
WIKILEAKS

2007
IPHONE

2010
INSTAGRAM

2009
AADHAAR IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM
World's largest biometric database of citizens used in India. A 12 digit unique-identity number is based on individual biometrics (iris scans, fingerprints) and demographic data. The system was launched in 2009 and covers nearly 90% of the total population of India as of April 2017.

2010
CHELSEA MANNING

2011
THE GORGON STARE
Airborne surveillance system, mounted on the underside of a drone. Its electro-optical and infrared sensor system includes nine video cameras, which are able to transmit live video images of physical movement across an entire town. While the system can see everything, the adversary on the ground does not know what or who is being looked at.

2011
THE LEFT-TO-DIE BOAT
The Oceanography project supported a coalition of NGOs demanding accountability for the deaths of migrants in the central Mediterranean Sea, a region that was tightly monitored with satellites by the NATO-led coalition intervening in Libya. The project's efforts were focused on what is now known as the "left-to-die boat" case, where 63 migrants lost their lives, drifting for 14 days within the NATO maritime surveillance area.

2012
ARREST OF KIM DOTCOM

2013
EDWARD SNOWDEN

2013
PRISM
Highly-classified program intended to grant direct access to internet servers for the NSA to wiretap. Since 2007, it has collected material which includes individual search history, the contents of emails, and file transfers and live chats from internet giants like Google, Apple or Facebook. Revealed to public through the Snowden archive.

2013
UNDERSEA NETWORK SURVEILLANCE
The Snowden revelation also contained evidence of the US and the UK spy agencies tapping into submarine network structures. These fiber optic cables are part of the physical backbone of the internet and essential to worldwide data flows. All communication moves through them, in favor of "Mastering the Internet" – a project by GCHQ.

2013
NOTHING IS BEYOND OUR REACH
When the US National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) launched the classified satellite NROL-39 into space on December 6th, 2013, the logo of the mission received more attention than the mission itself. It depicts an octopus wrapping its arms around the globe accompanied by the slogan: Nothing is beyond our reach. After filing a request about the emblem's origin under the Freedom of Information Act, it came to light that the NRO chose the octopus to represent the mission, as it is a highly intelligent, versatile creature, with arms that can reach even the most delicate corners of the world, leaving no space for enemies of the US to hide.

2016
BREXIT
TRUMP

2017
CHELSEA MANNING ON A BEACH

Trevor Paglen

2014
AUTONOMY CUBE
Autonomy Cube is a sculpture designed to be housed in art museums, galleries, and civic spaces. The sculpture is meant to be both "seen" and "used." This happens in several ways. Several Internet-connected computers housed within the work create an open Wi-Fi hotspot called "Autonomy Cube" wherever it is installed. Anyone can join this network and use it to browse the Internet.

But Autonomy Cube does not provide a normal internet connection. The sculpture routs all of the Wi-Fi traffic over the Tor network, a global network of thousands of volunteer-run servers, relays, and services designed to help anonymize data.
In addition, Autonomy Cube is itself a Tor relay, and can be used by others around the world to anonymize their internet use. When Autonomy Cube is installed, both the sculpture, host institution, and users become part of a privacy-oriented, volunteer run internet infrastructure.

2005 — 2013
LIMIT TELEPHOTOGRAPHY
A number of classified military bases and installations are located in some of the remotest parts of the United States, hidden deep in western deserts and buffered by dozens of miles of restricted land. Many of these sites are so remote, in fact, that there is nowhere on Earth where a civilian might be able to see them with an unaided eye. In order to produce images of these remote and hidden landscapes, therefore, some unorthodox viewing and imaging techniques are required.

Limit-telephotography involves photographing landscapes that cannot be seen with the unaided eye. The technique employs high powered telescopes whose focal lengths range between 1300mm and 7000mm. At this level of magnification, hidden aspects of the landscape become apparent.

Limit-telephotography most closely resembles astrophotography, a technique that astronomers use to photograph objects that might be trillions of miles from Earth. In some ways, however, it is easier to photograph the depths of the solar system than it is to photograph the recesses of the military industrial complex. Between Earth and Jupiter (500 million miles away), for example, there are about five miles of thick, breathable atmosphere. In contrast, there are upwards of forty miles of thick atmosphere between an observer and the sites depicted in this series.

2014
NSA TRIPTYCH
The triptych of nighttime aerial photographs shows locations from which the American government's covert intelligence agencies operate. The structures' size alludes to the enormous scope of surveillance activities carried out under their control. In his portrayal of National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters in Fort Meade, Paglen deliberately chooses the very same perspective used in a photograph from the 1970s, which the agency still uses as their public image.

2011
SEVENTEEN LETTERS FROM THE DEEP STATE
The seventeen documents were made public during a court case between two transportation companies working for the U.S.

government. Upon closer inspection, one can see that different signatures have been used under the same name. As a matter of fact, the shipments often have been linked to 'black sites', secret prisons run by the U.S. government. These sites have come to be known through the democratically contested practice of 'extraordinary rendition': the unauthorized detention of individuals and their transfer to places where they are no longer under United States jurisdiction.

2015
89 LANDSCAPES
Dual-channel video installation comprising material Paglen filmed for "CITZENFOUR," Laura Poitras' Academy Award-winning film about Edward Snowden.

Curated by: Jen Kratochvíl
Exibition is part of Fotograf Festival #7 Eye In The Sky

1
N5177C AT GOLD COAST TERMINAL
LAS VEGAS, NV
DISTANCE ~ 1 MILE, 2007

2
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, FT. MEADE, MARYLAND;
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE, CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA;
NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA, 2014

3
THEY WATCH THE MOON, 2010

4
DETACHMENT 3, AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER #2
GROOM LAKE, NV
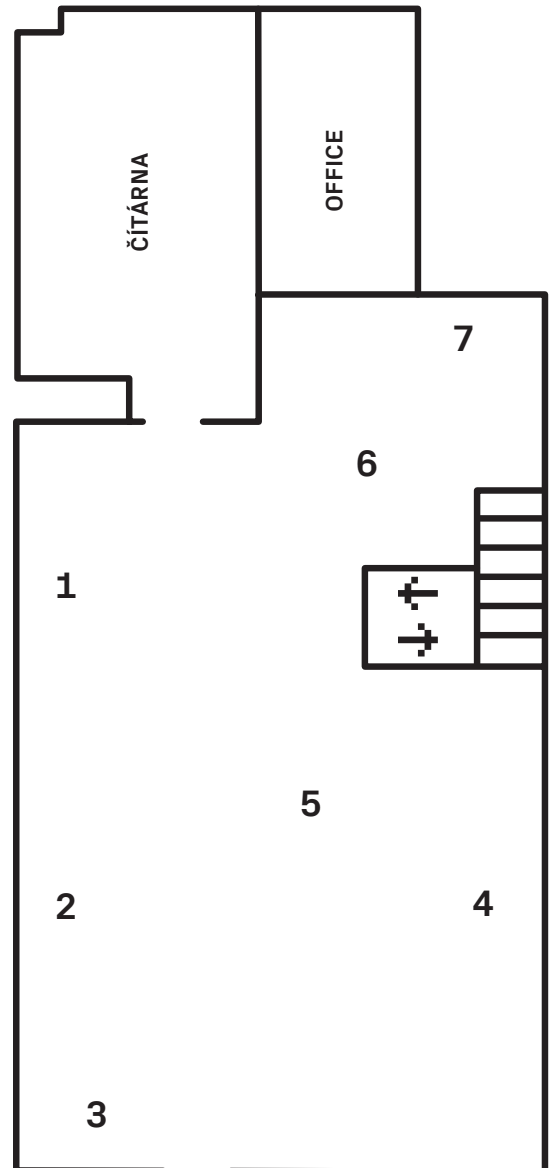DISTANCE ~ 26 MILES, 2008

5
AUTONOMY CUBE, 2015

6
VITRINE:
PILE #1: INVOICE FOR RENDITION FLIGHT OPERATED
BY RICHMORE AVIATION. RICHMORE AVIATION IS A "FAKE"
COMPANY OPERATING FLIGHTS FOR THE CIA. SOME OF
THE 9/11 HIGHJACKERS LEARNED HOW TO FLY A PLANE AT
RICHMORE AVIATION
PILE #2: LIST OG PHONE NUMBERS THAT FOREWARD TO CIA.
THE NUMBERS ARE NOT LISTED.
PILE #3: COURT STATEMENT OF A VICTIM.
PILE #4: DE-CLASSIFIED SENATE TORTURE REPORT.

7
SEVENTEEN LETTERS FROM THE DEEP STATE, 2011

8
89 LANDSCAPES, 2015
24 MIN

1.NP
GROUND FLOOR

ČÍTÁRNA

OFFICE

7

6

1

5

2

4

3

1.PP
BASEMENT

8