

Matt Magazine #2



Gürsoy Dogtas
Mobility & Surveillance
www.mattmagazine.com

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Les Complices
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www.lescomplices.ch

Matt Magazine, a project by Gürsoy Dogtas.

Matt Magazine is a synthesis between fanzine and current affairs magazine. Text and pictures complement each other, tackling complex and political subjects relevant to our times. All the texts in Matt are from previously-published classic documents from the history of science and humanities. Xeroxed copies of extracts with occasional sections highlighted or circled in a purely subjective way are juxtaposed with images from a different source. Matt Magazine is in the tradition of critical concept art and is oriented towards the aesthetic of appropriation Art.

In the new issue of Matt Magazine, with its theme of “Mobility and Surveillance”, you will find text by Duncan Campbell combined with US military satellite images of a rocket launch from the Jiuquan Space Facility in China. The picture sequence by the artist Natalie Jeremijenko from New York merges with the statistics of Ariel Merari’s article “Attacks on Civil Aviation”. In addition, some extracts of Carl Schmitt’s “Theory of the Partisan” create a new dialogue with video stills of the New Yorker Surveillance Camera Players. Last but not least the photos of Gürsoy Dogtas provide illustration to the table of contents of Carl von Clausewitz’s “Vom Kriege” (On War) and a text extract of Tim Cresswell’s study “In Place/Out of Place”.

“Mobility and Surveillance” deals with one of the most important domestic political issues of today’s society. All surveillance starts with suspicion. The practice of surveillance has generated a process where everyone or everything under observation is already incriminated just because he, she or it is observed. The paranoid use of all-embracing surveillance is a fiction which is marking the end of civil society and the start of control society.

A huge network of surveillance devices are installed by international organisations such as Echelon with the aim of preventing any communication getting through without being monitored. No e-mails or phone calls can be transmitted without selected key words triggering these devices. Echelon is part of a global surveillance system existing for more than 50 years with the purpose of depriving human communication of its privacy. (Duncan Campbell: Inside Echelon/Photos: Jiuquan Space Facility).

Airports are prime exemplars of mobility, and as such are areas of high risk. Aeroplanes can be used themselves as weapons of mass destruction. Airports are ruled by the principles of functionality, so that humans and goods can get to their destination safely and quickly. As time restrictions make it impossible to carry out a rigorous check on each individual passenger, efficient methods of monitoring and profiling are developed to pick out specific passengers.

From what originally may have seemed to be a rational set of operating criteria, an overtly irrational and racist approach is emerging.

Natalie Jeremijenko captures images of the routine of the security technology, while she is on

her way to the gates with her roller skates. Documented with video stills, her graphic story shows how easy it is to irritate the system. (Ariel Merari: „Attacks on Civil Aviation“/Videostills: Natalie Jeremijenko).

Another subversive action taken against the blanket surveillance of our cities can be found in a series of photos in the new edition showing the activities of the Surveillance Camera Players. Combined with extracts of the legendary text from Carl Schmitt about the irregular fight of the partisan, Surveillance Camera Players demonstrate the possibilities of radical and violence-free forms of protesting.

With his picture sequence Gürsoy Dogtas is showing how marking, allegation and expansion of geo-political interest of power all times are just not expressed in war but in all forms of the mobile society. The base of every interest of power is the infrastructure as argued in Clausewitz's essay "On War". (Photos: Gürsoy Dogtas/Carl von Clausewitz: vom Kriege).

An other picture story line of Gürsoy Dogtas illustrates a text extract of Tim Cresswell "In Place/out of Place". Here chances are negotiated how the "controlled space" can be the "space of resistance".

Exhibitions:

Matt Magazine #1
Freizeit und Konsum
Galerie Hafen und Rand
Friedrichstraße 28
20359 Hamburg
www.hafenrand.com

Matt Magazine #2
Mobility & Surveillance
Les Complices
Anwandstraße 9
CH-8004 Zürich
www.lescomplices.ch

Matt Magazine #3
Prominence given, authority taken
Lothringer13/laden
München
Ende 2007
<http://laden.lothringer13.de/>

Invited for:

29th July 2007 „Published and be Damned“/London
www.publishandbedamned.org

3rd and 4th October 2007 Salon Light#4 in Paris
<http://www.cneai.com>

Matt Magazine is friend with **Starship**
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