DRONE READYMADE:
FINE MILITARY DETRITUS
2011 - PRESENT

THE PERISCOPE PROJECT

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A regional cluster of defense contractors established the framework for a series of brief occupations with the drone container living unit. Published the framework for a series of brief occupations with the drone container living unit. A regional cluster of defense contractors established the framework for a series of brief occupations with the drone container living unit.

San Diego: A Mobilizing Landscape

8 of the 10 largest defense contracts in the United States are held by companies with significant presence in San Diego.*

The logistical container for a GA MQ-1 Predator drone (see image) appears on San Diego Craigslist. In much recent controversy regarding the Predator MQ-1, it has been deployed by the United States military in Iraq and the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, and has become the focus of a potentially escalating “drone war,” with domestic and international implications: The Predator MQ-1 is developed and manufactured by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., in Poway, CA, 15 miles north of San Diego proper.

As much as the F35 Joint Strike Fighter became the iconic symbol of defense, a field of new Horizons was on display in San Diego, and the Periscope Project transported the container “from a friend at the port, who said he had several and needed to get rid of them.”

In the months that followed, the Periscope Project hosted a series of screenings and informal conversations around the theme of the “coffin,” exploring the phantasmagorical and the political, the monumental and the mundane, the ready-made unto itself. The dialog concerned what to do with it, and what, exactly, it means—loosely inclusive of corporate, suburbanization. It is compelling to imagine that the shipment case appearing on Craigslist was an empty sarcophagus of sorts, returning to its place of origin in San Diego.

The container was acquired in April 2011 from a local collector, the author of the Craigslist post, in Bonita, CA, 16 miles southeast of San Diego. The container was then transported to General Atomics Aeronautical, and Shelter Island: the birthplace of the MQ-1 Predator. The container was finally documented on the weekend of August 19, 20, and 21, 2011, resident artists from The Periscope Project transported the modified container on the photo-op pilgrimage. The show that were deemed as possible standoff and launch from a drone history of aerospace development in San Diego, the last on the ground, seen through our current conflicts. The container was then photographed for the Periscope Project’s catalog in East Village. (The container was shipped back to Bonita, CA, 15 miles north of San Diego proper, to Bonita Air Station Coronado, San Diego County, current property of the United States Navy, with the glittering skyline of San Diego in the background.

In Poway, when employees of General Atomics were informed of the re-loading of the container into a rented Uhaul truck, they alerted authorities as though a drone war was being staged. Several miles down the road, at the intersection of Interstate 15 and Interstate 5, an employee of General Atomics was considered to be a suspect. On the basis of this, authorities finally understood that the artists were attempting to commit a spectacle of a potential terrorist plot thwarted. In Poway, when employees of General Atomics were informed of the re-loading of the container into a rented Uhaul truck, they alerted authorities as though a drone war was being staged. Several miles down the road, at the intersection of Interstate 15 and Interstate 5, an employee of General Atomics was considered to be a suspect. On the basis of this, authorities finally understood that the artists were attempting to commit a spectacle of a potential terrorist plot thwarted.

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