

2022, 3D Animation Stills, Gyclée prints, 47.25" h X 86.61" w

About Pervasive Surveillance

Cida de Aragon

In the present era, the realm of surveillance extends beyond public space, permeating even our sanctuaries of privacy. The ceaseless scrutiny and collection of data have ingrained themselves in our existence, yielding profound ramifications for our daily lives.

The constant omnipresence of surveillance casts a watchful gaze upon our movements in the public domain and our interactions, even in more secluded settings, a reality that renders the phrase "we never walk alone" far from metaphorical. Intimate intricacies are extracted from our personal realms, remote repositories of data accessed at the mere touch of a digital interface. Illustratively, China has harnessed the deployment of an extensive network, upwards of six hundred million surveillance cameras, adorning its urban landscapes. This unwarranted encroachment upon our individual sanctums is an escalating concern that ripples through the fabric of our societal existence, reshaping the contours of privacy itself. The insidious assimilation of surveillance technologies infiltrates every facet of our lives, subtly orchestrating an omnipotent symphony of observation, often veiled in the guise of innocuous benignity.

Be it the precision of facial recognition algorithms, the ubiquitous surveillance apparatus, the meticulous tracing of our motions, or the precise curation of our online predilections, all contribute to a trove of data of great value to governmental bodies, organizations, and the sprawling domain of "big tech." This inventory of intrusions has seen further augmentation with the advent of smartphone applications, monitoring not only our health metrics and movement, but even the rhythmic cadence of our heartbeats. One is compelled to ponder the extent to which these technologies will extend their dominion, perhaps venturing into the province of our very thoughts.

The ceaseless and penetrating eye, symbolic of pervasive control and surveillance, has evolved into a collective archetype of our shared unconscious, encapsulating the aura of excessive control and censorship that accompanies such invasive practices.

Indeed, in the current era, echoes of Orwellian dystopia reverberate with chilling resonance.

Exploring the Multifaceted Digital Work of Cida de Aragon

Michael Genova, Program Director Entertainment Engineering and Design, UNLV

The recent works created by Cida de Aragon combine the practices of many artistic disciplines. De Aragon's diverse works and interdisciplinary collaborations seamlessly weave together the practices of digital art, projection, photography, public art, and sound design. Through the exploration of innovative and captivating themes, she blurs the lines between mediums, creating immersive experiences that engage multiple senses and challenge conventional artistic norms. Fully embracing the digital landscape, de Aragon crafts intricate and mesmerizing artworks that seem to be transcendent. Her creations often combine elements of surrealism, abstraction, and darker narratives, resulting in visual compositions that invite viewers to explore the depths of their imagination. Each piece radiates a sense of otherworldliness. The textures and shapes evoke emotion and introspection, drawing the audience to the threshold of a liminal space.

One of de Aragon's main artistic themes is the impact of "surveillance". Surveillance of public space and private citizens has increased excessively over the last decade, often under the guise

of ensuring safety and security. On many levels, we can observe an increase in excessive and intrusive control by government bodies leading to numerous negative effects: it is harmful because it diminishes the exercise of our civil liberties, surveilling our communication with others. Privacy has become luxury.

I was fortunate to work with Cida on the original sound design for her thesis installation Pervasive Surveillance. It became apparent that, as an artist, Cida has a clear vision of the outcome of her work. The collaboration was inspiring, energetic, and dare I say, fun. My colleagues and I are proud to see Cida's work come to fruition, and look forward to her future works.

The installation is displayed at:
Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas: Feb. 2 - 17, 2023
UNLV School of Architecture, Las Vegas: Sep. 7 - Nov 8, 2023

Biography

Cida de Aragon, M.F.A., is a media artist and photographer who has been working extensively on the theme of "surveillance", in the United States, Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom, since 2000. Her work is characterized by its interdisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of installation art, video, photography, and sound. Cida de Aragon is particularly interested in the use of coding and interactivity to create immersive installations that respond to the viewer's movement and action. For 20+ years, she has explored the complexities of public space. Other recurring themes in Cida's work include urbanity and the public realm, questions of identity, technology and control, sound, and the notion of place. In her installations, she is interested in the integration of media art into public space; an example for this is her memorial "Resilience" in Brisbane. She uses her work to investigate the ways in which technology can be used to create new forms of communication and interaction; and how media art can be used to challenge our perceptions of the world around us.

Cida is currently working on a new ambitious interdisciplinary project that explores the relationship between surveillance, control, and privacy in the digital age. The project consists of a series of immersive installations that use coding and interactivity to create a sense of unease and discomfort in the viewer. Since 2000, Cida de Aragon made a significant contribution to the field of media art. Her work has been published in three catalogues. She holds Master's degrees from Goldsmiths' College London, UNLV Las Vegas, and Middlesex University London. She has taught photography at UNLV and the Filmakademie BW. Her work is represented in several private and public collections. It is thought provoking and engaging, and it challenges us to think in new ways about the world around us. Cida de Aragon is represented by gallery EIGEN + ART in Berlin .

www.cidadearagon.com | twitter.com/AragonCida
www.instagram.com/cida_de_aragon/
www.vimeo.com/cidadearagon





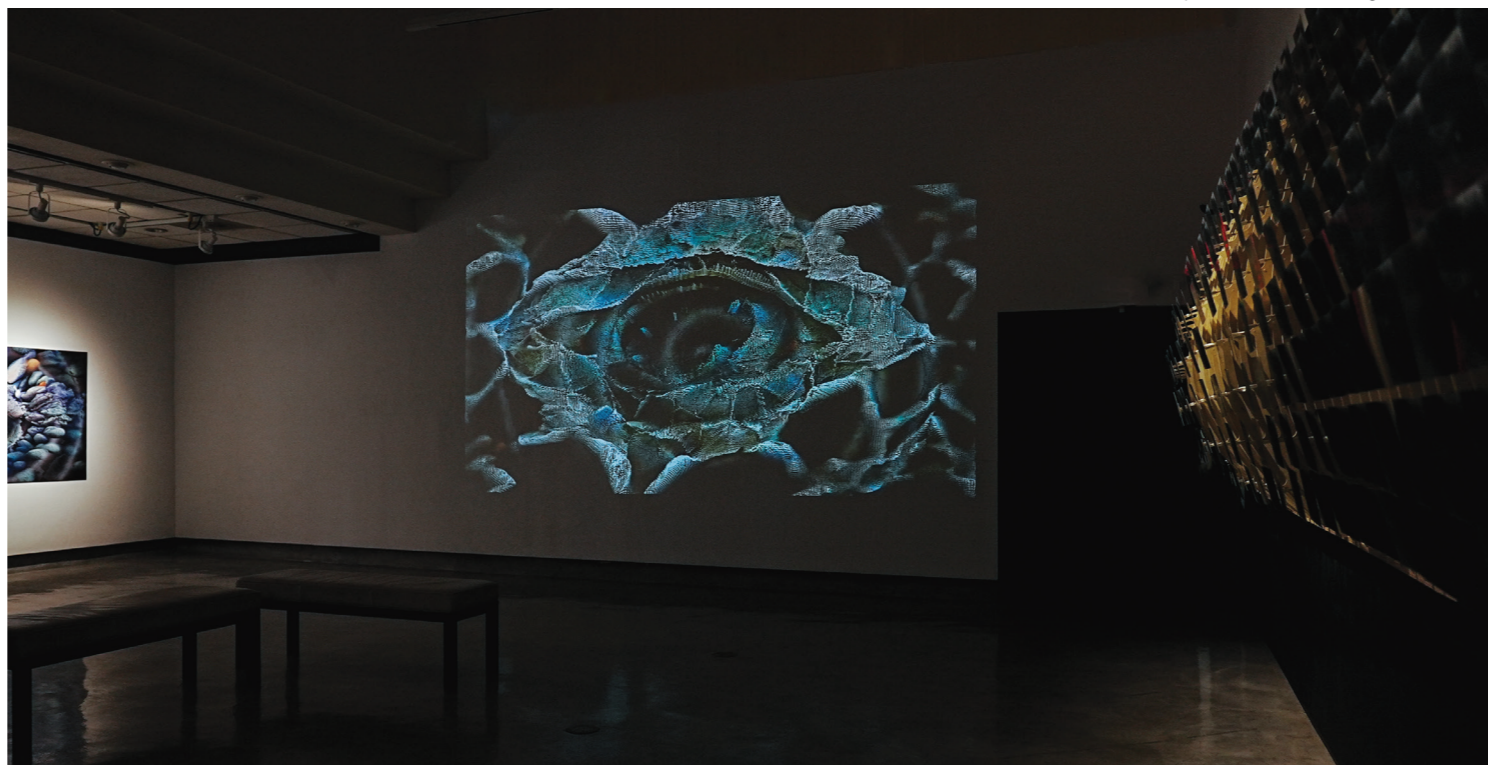
"300 Vigilant Eyes," 2022. Parametric wall sculpture, 600 pieces. 4.92' X 19.69'.

"Pervasive Surveillance 1 & 4," 2022. Gyclée print, 47.25"X 86.61.



"Pervasive Surveillance 5 & 6," 2022. Gyclée print, 47.25"X 86.61."Agents of Surveillance," 2023. 3D Animation, 3'.

"Pervasive Surveillance" 2022-2023. 3D Animation. 20'. Soundscape: Cida de Aragon



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