

Insufficient Funds : Drones & Chemtrails

When looking up at the sky, it is quite normal to see lines and streaks of clouds and planes populating the sky. Until recently I hardly gave it a second thought, knowing that they were just the paths left behind from traveling jets or strange cloud patterns. The works I have made during my residency at Struts emerge from my growing concern of how governments and corporations use our skies. Two particular areas of inquiry have caught my intense attention; drones and chemical trails. I aim to investigate the power dynamics represented between those controlling the airspaces, dictating and implementing their interest, and the rest of us.

Chemtrails have recently gained much attention (I, admittedly, was unfamiliar with them before a few weeks ago), most prominently online and amongst environmental groups. There are two different types of trails that planes make, contrails (condensation trails) and chemtrails (chemical trails). The difference between the two being that planes creating chemtrails have added chemicals, such as barium, nano aluminum-coated fiberglass, radioactive thorium etc. in addition to the regular CO₂ and NO_x (both enthusiastic contributors to global climate change) that are present in contrails. Astonishingly enough, or perhaps not, governments have been using planes to disperse chemicals since the early 40's. This is most popular amongst the Brits, Americans, Aussies and French. Contemporary interest in chemtrails evolve prominently around its usage in war, (termed geochemical warfare) to induce climate modification, earthquake generation, tsunami

generation and direction, and mass behaviour control – all quite alarming potential outcomes from the beautiful lines in the sky. Even when there are no irregular chemicals in these fluffy lines, air traffic is expected to double or even triple by 2050, causing leading contrail researchers to insist that the influence of these artificial clouds cannot be ignored.

My interest in drones is similarly focused. While some argue that the ends justify the means where drones are concerned, within popular foreign policies (the US most notably) the *complete* lack of transparency surrounding drone surveillance, target and operations. This is coupled with the troubling psychological impacts on drone operators, as warfare shifts from a reality that a soldier must live in and experience every day, to job that they get to come home from. By coupling WikiLeaks videos of drone strikes with that of video games, I aim to highlight the dehumanisation of targets, as they become, seemingly, regenerating casualties in our real life Call of Duty.

In approaching these topics, I do not ask you to agree or believe everything I have written here, but I do encourage you to research and engage with these topics that I believe have a immense impact on our future. As a note about the title of my residency "insufficient funds", I encourage you to bid on some of the paintings up for auction so I can continue bringing dastardly plots to light through thoughtful, beautiful paintings.

-Jeanne Fries

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'Living is Easy' Struts Gallery
