HABITUAL SUSPECTS
OVER THE WIRE #06

OPENING
DEC. 17. 2010
17:00-19:00

SOVA STUDENTS:
JOANNE ANDERSON . KERRY BARBER . ELLEN FRIESEN
SOLVEY JOHNSGAARD . JACKSON LOVETT . KRYSAT MANUEL
AUBYN O'GRADY . KATHRYN PENNINGTON . GRAHAM RUDGE
SARAH SEBURN . EMMA TUS . THOMAS USHER

For the 6th edition of OVER THE WIRE – which pairs internationally acclaimed artists with the students at the Yukon School of Visual Arts to create an exhibition through correspondence – Deborah Stratman and SIMPARCH’s Steven Badgett directed the students to intervene with the everyday under the premise that “architecture is frozen habit”. With a project called Habitual Suspects students started off with the writings of George Perec and consciousness philosopher Alva Noë, then proceeded to decode a secret message sent by the artists in Chicago via morse code. In turn, the students created solo and collaborative works that interrupted their crystallised personal behaviours, cultural assumptions and established architecture. Using the SOVA gallery as a node, the exhibition includes records of performances in the domestic sphere, modifications to transportation, prosthetics on the verge of the ridiculous, hacks to the architecture of the school and interventions surrounding the building.

-Charles Stankievech
SOVA Instructor

Deborah Stratman is an artist and filmmaker interested in landscapes and systems. Her films, rather than telling stories, pose a series of problems – and through their at times ambiguous nature, allow for a complicated reading of the questions being asked. Many of her films point to the relationships between physical environments and the very human struggles for power, ownership, mastery and control that are played out on the land. Most recently, they have questioned elemental historical narratives about freedom, expansion, security, and the regulation of space. Stratman works in multiple mediums, including photography, sound, drawing and sculpture. She has exhibited internationally at venues including the Whitney Biennial, MoMA, the Pompidou, Hammer Museum and many international film festivals including Sundance, the Viennale, Ann Arbor and Rotterdam. She is the recipient of Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships and she currently teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

http://www.pythagorasfilm.com/

Steven Badgett is part of SIMPARCH – a collaborative practice involving large-scale, usually interactive installations and events that examine loaded geography, building practices, site-specificity and materials that may be salvaged, recycled or generally brought together with a kind of DIY attitude. Often collaborating with other organizations, like the Centre for Land Use Interpretation, and individual artists, builders, scientists, academics, filmmakers, and musicians, SIMPARCH works at exposing a site’s history and use through social interaction and experimentation with vernacular design and materials. SIMPARCH has shown at Documenta XI, Venice Biennale for Architecture, Whitney Biennial, Tate Modern, Renaissance Society and Deitch Projects, NYC.

http://www.simparch.org/

OVER THE WIRE Series :: http://media.yukonsova.ca/over-the-wire
1. WARM UP (decode and execute):
2. READ: Approaches to What by Georges Perec
   The Habitual Brain by Alva Noë
3. Take account of, question, describe things that occur every day - the banal, the
   quotidien, the obvious, the common, the ordinary, the extraordinary, the back
ground noise, the habitual.
   Question what is so matter of course that you’ve forgotten its origins.
   Catalogue your habits.
4. Create new frameworks around chosen commonplace actions, places objects or
phenomena.
   For example...
   Modify routine
   Alter physical space
   Shift social habits
   Consider modifications in terms of...
   Accentuation
   Impedance
   Scale
   Ritualization
   Improved Function
   You must document and/or physically manifest your modifications.