



Details of date, time, GPS location and uploader scroll across the screen in a list of provenances to the 'truth' of images. Interspersed with these empirical texts are opening lines of accounts from civilian and military bloggers who describe their experiences of conflict. Longer extracts of these letters-to-an-unknown-public, read by different voices, form the soundtrack, resulting in a three-tiered narrative structure that communicates most loudly between the information flows.



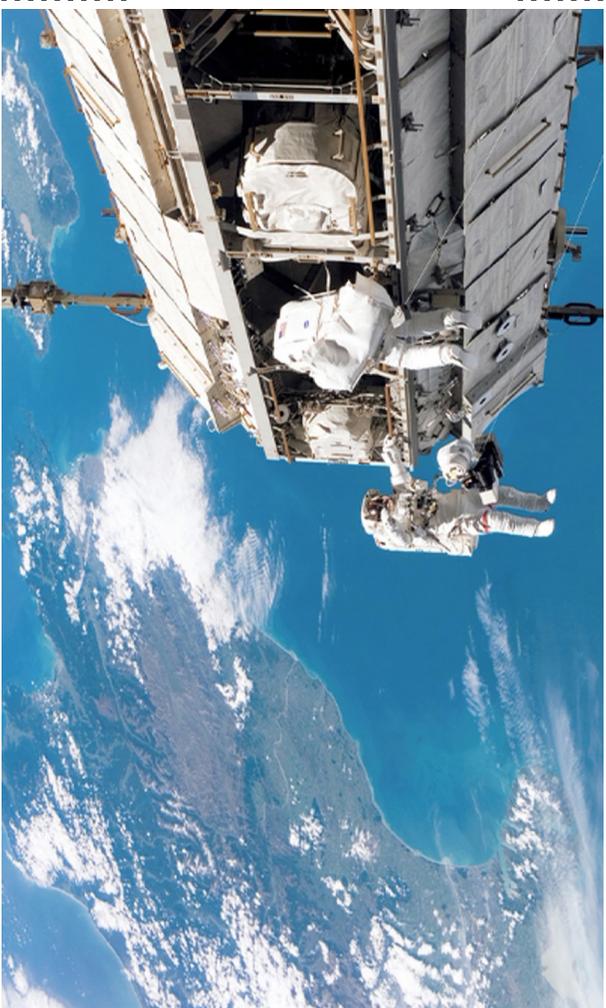
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**Double culpability/
double subjectivity:
Thomson &
Craighead's A Short
Film about War**

Lisa Le Feuvre



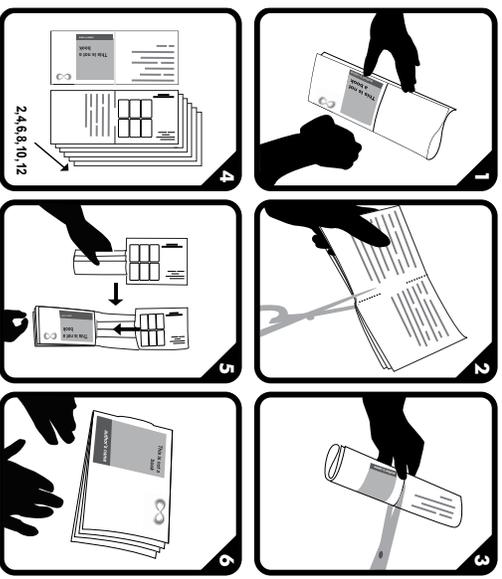
- > <http://www.flickr.com/photos/valerierenee/2747193943/>
- > user: Valerie Renee
- > uploaded on August 9 2008
- > location: Walt Disney World, Florida
- > <http://www.flickr.com/photos/valerierenee/2746217457/sizes/o/>
- > user: Valerie Renee
- > uploaded on August 9 2008
- > location: Main Street USA, Disney World, Florida
- > Location: Kandahar, Afghanistan
- > GPS: 31°36'40.26" N 65°47'44.07" E



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- > uploaded on April 9 2008
- > location: Warab, Sudan
- > <http://www.flickr.com/photos/creepsleepy/2350742880/>
- > user: Dan Patterson
- > uploaded on March 21, 2008
- > location: Bahr al Jabal
- > <http://www.flickr.com/photos/vithassan/291684355/>
- > user: Vít Hassan
- > uploaded on November 7 2006
- > location: Khartoum, Sudan
- > <http://www.flickr.com/photos/creepsleepy/2374232071/>
- > user: Dan Patterson
- > uploaded on March 30 2008
- > location: South Sudan Airstrip



**Double culpability/double subjectivity:
Thomson and Craighead's
A Short Film about War**

Lisa Le Feuvre

A Short Film about War is a narrative documentary artwork made entirely from information found on the worldwide web. In ten minutes this two screen movie takes viewers around the world to a variety of war zones as seen through the collective eyes of the online photo sharing community Flickr, and as witnessed by a variety of existing military and civilian bloggers.

See the film at animateprojects.org

A Short Film about War was developed with help from New Media Scotland and Alt-w.
Script by Jon Thomson, Alison Craighead & Steve Rushton.
Essay by Lisa Le Feuvre.



to the power of technology, Google Earth is infinitely fascinating,

centres to construct panoramic viewing structures. [3] A useless monument replicating the desires for visual control that led industrial revolution urban hovering above the globe creates fictional possession of knowledge, Earth, returning to rest on a street-stall in Ramallah. The possibilities of

global political nature.

A Short Film about War begins to the left with images of Atlanta airport.

To the right, image details are logged, followed by a blog that spirals out into the voiceover. The writer announces his desire to express the intertwining of his hatred for the army and his separation from his wife. The confessional is a personal therapeutic solution to one man's grief, but the concerns are of a

Like all documents, these views are fictions that are keen to seduce with promises of fact that turn the camera into a doubly culpable mechanism that captures and influences reality as it plays back particular versions of experience. Thomson and Craighead's film points to a concern with this double culpability as it in turn doubles the subjectivity of found material into a montage revealing the impossibilities of making a short film about war.

[3] **Roland Barthes**, 'The Eiffel Tower' in *The Eiffel Tower and other Mythologies*, translated by Richard Howard (Berkeley: California University Press 1997)

and official channels.

reporting structures offers no less subjectivity than those from mainstream sources out from institutions to individuals. The unfurling of less unified war has shifted as the user-generated realm of the Internet extends information

the representation of war.

War is a contention of power relations, asserted through both actions, and transmission of those actions: as communication technologies evolve so do

of documentary film, working with material relating to conflict gathered during 2007 and 2008 publicly accessible archives on the Internet, proposing

How can one claim to make a film about war, let alone a short one?
To make a film 'about' anything always results in approximation.

Engagement with this very failure, though, can initiate complicated entanglements with doubt that open a possibility for politics. Often, a specific subject is most forcefully discussed when attention is paid to matters of concern rather than matters of fact. [1] While film may allude to replicating events, images, locations and questions, it is always constructed through filters of subjectivity.

[1] **Bruno Latour**, 'Why has Critique Run out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern' in *Critical Inquiry* 30 2004



[2] See Herbert Marcuse, 'Some Social Implications of Modern Technology' in Technology, War and Fascism: Collected Papers from Herbert Marcuse edited by Douglas Kellner (London: Routledge 1998)

This record of subjective documentary points to the operations of technology as a process capable of organising and shifting social relationships via power structures, resistance and the construction of assumptions. [2] With technological advancements, be they in the ever-linked military or communication spheres, come economies of scale and the affirmation of a vast system that speaks louder than any one individual. Somehow, rationality comes to hold more power than intuitive, or even emotional, responses to the-way-things-are under the conditions of war.

This ten-minute double-screen projection interrogates the impossibilities and resistances of the representation of war in the complex technologically driven networks that form contemporary communication. The left-hand screen shows a collection of images from Flickr, uploaded by individuals who choose to preserve and spread evidence of a particular personal and political present. The right hand screen logs the source of these images: Istanbul, Nepal, Santa Monica, Texas, Baghdad, Ramallah, Walt Disney World.

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> uploaded on December 22 2007
> location: Hong Kong International Airport
>
>
> http://www.flickr.com/photos/ddyates/2725301236/in/set-721575760649800714
> user: i'll never grow up
> uploaded on August 2 2008
> location: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
>
> http://www.flickr.com/photos/ddyates/2724461471/in/set-7215760649800714
> user: i'll never grow up
> uploaded on August 2 2008
> location: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
>
> http://www.flickr.com/photos/ddyates/2725301236/
> user: i'll never grow up
> uploaded on August 2 2008
> location: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
  
```