

# ALTMAN SIEGEL

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## **Trevor Paglen**

*Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite  
(Design 2, Build 1)*

Frieze Art Fair 2013  
Regents Park, London  
October 16 - 20th, 2013  
Booth F18

Altman Siegel will present Trevor Paglen's *Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite (Design 2, Build 1)*, at Frieze London 2013. The sculpture is a prototype for an actual spacecraft that could be launched into low earth orbit.

Crafted from reflective Mylar and aluminum, the spacecraft/sculpture is capable of collapsing into a small, lightweight canister that could be placed onboard a space-bound rocket as a "secondary payload" (in other words, it could hitch a ride alongside a larger satellite). Should the proposed sculpture after its presentation at Frieze be launched into orbit, the spacecraft would expand to become a large sail-like sculpture. From Earth, the spacecraft/sculpture would be visible to the unaided eye as a flickering, slowly-moving, star-like object in the night sky. Once launched, it would be visible for a few months before burning up in the atmosphere without a trace.

While developing previous projects, Paglen became familiar with engineering and fabrication techniques used in designing and building spacecraft. With the *Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite*, Paglen consciously puts aerospace engineering into conversation with the legacy of minimalist sculpture, earthworks, and formalism in general. As a field of knowledge and practice, aerospace engineering is historically inseparable from military and state power. *Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite* proposes that it could be otherwise.

As an experimental geographer and photographer, Paglen blurs the lines between science, journalism and art. He has spent a decade researching, documenting and writing about the "dark spots on the map", spaces hidden by state and military classification. He illuminates these spaces both through written publications and photographic series that document classified military spacecraft and military installations hidden in remote parts of the United States. *Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite* represents a significant departure for the artist. Rather than documenting the clandestine world of covert military operations, he is using the engineering funded by this vast military industrial complex to create public sculpture. Thus, drawing our attention to the non-military potential of technology.

Trevor Paglen is the author of five books and numerous articles on subjects including experimental geography, state secrecy, military symbology, photography, and visuality. Paglen holds a B.A. from U.C. Berkeley, an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Geography from U.C. Berkeley. Trevor Paglen lives and works in New York.

Current and upcoming exhibitions:

"Code Names," Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands; September 9, 2013 - January 5, 2014

Trevor Paglen, Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne, Germany; September 6 - November 2, 2013

Trevor Paglen, Protocinema, Istanbul, Turkey; September 12 - October 25, 2013

"Dissident Futures," Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; October 18, 2013 - February 2, 2014

"Weather Permitting," The 9th Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil; September 13 - November 10, 2013

"The Automated Image," Le Mois de la Photo, Montreal, Canada; September 7 - November 9, 2013

"On Watching and Being Seen," Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, IL; August 27 - October 19, 2013

"A Democracy of Images: Photographs from the Smithsonian American Art Museum," Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; June 28, 2013 - January 5, 2014

"Surveying the Terrain," Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC; October 3, 2013 - January 13, 2014

"Visibility Machines: Harun Farocki & Trevor Paglen," Center for Art, Design And Visual Culture, Baltimore, MD, (Traveling); October 24, 2013 - February 22, 2014

"Genres: Landscape, Featuring Trevor Paglen," Broad Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, Spring 2014

For more information please contact the gallery at [info@altmansiegel.com](mailto:info@altmansiegel.com) or 415-576-9300.