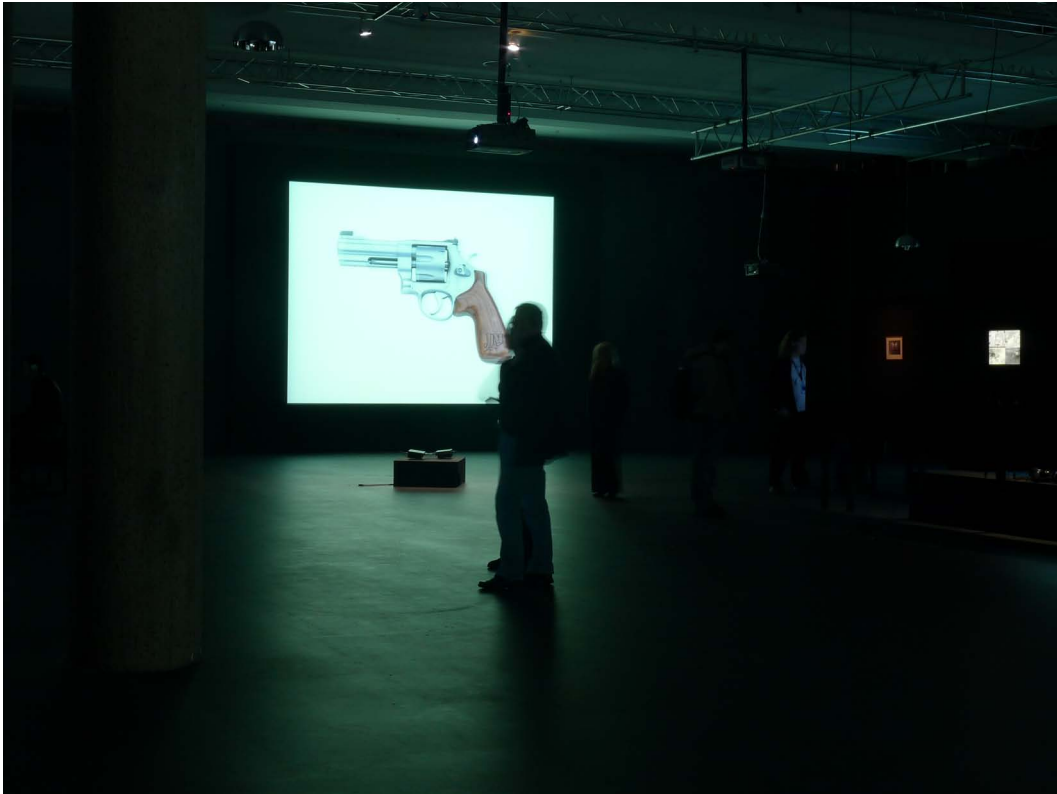# Armed citizen

Daniel G. Andújar / Technologies To The People

Armed citizen, 1998/2006

Website with linked images. Presented with large-format DVD slide projection
www.irational.org/tttp/Crypto/armed1.html
Presented as wall installation

Dark Drives. Uneasy Energies in technological Times
transmediale 2012, Berlin, Germany

The Wonderful World of irational.org: Tools, Techniques and Events 1996-2006
CCA Glasgow; Hartware MedienKunstVerein, PHOENIX Halle Dortmund, Germany;
Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia

Presented in the exhibition as an upgrade of almost 100 images, the internet project Armed Citizen shows a series of 17 small arms. No information is given on their origins. Who owns them? Are they being used as criminal evidence? Are they perhaps murder weapons? Who does the ›armed citizen‹ of the title refer to — the police? Or a citizens' defence group that has taken up arms? Is there some allusion to the liberal firearms laws in the United States, to bloody incidents like the amok shootings that took place in Columbine High School, Colorado, in 1999, or in the Gutenberg Gymnasium in Erfurt in 2002? Armed Citizen is difficult to pin down. But it is safe to assert that it deals with an indeterminate feeling of fear and menace, and, by association, with the growing longing for security in a world felt to be increasingly less safe. The exhibition deliberately groups Armed Citizen in a kind of »security zone« together with Heath Bunting's CCTV and Rachel Baker and Heath Bunting's CCTV Sabotag — further irational works pointing to the essential futility of technology — or weapons-based protective measures. (Inke Arns, 2006)

The Wonderful World of irational.org

Tools, Techniques and Events 1996—2006

Questions of access are central to the notions of the Internet as a new space of freedom that became popular with the emergence of the World Wide Web in the early 1990s and have continued to flourish with Web 2.0 and beyond. The Chinese government is criticised when it censors certain websites and people celebrate worldwide when activists in the Middle East can share their videos via social platforms like Facebook. Furthermore, most people will probably agree that online shopping is not only cheaper but also easier than physically going to the shopping mall. Armed citizen (originally a website) is a series of images of handguns that can be bought online like the millions of other consumer goods the Internet offers the common user. The images give no information about the guns, the type, the price, or where they can be bought but simply present them one after the other as objects of desire made available by the new economy of digitalised networked transactions. Hence, the "armed citizens" that the title refers to are, for whatever reason they buy the guns, themselves the products of the commercial logic embedded in contemporary access culture. (Jacob Lillemouse, 2012)

Dark Drives. Uneasy Energies in Technological Times.

Transmediale12