

**Robert Spahr**

**Live Performance: Red Queen's Race (surveillance machine)**



**Abstract:**

I am interested in how the ideas and images presented to us by the media affect our world view. As the ever present cable news cycle pushes a daily message of fear, filled with political polarization; domestic and foreign terrorism; recent kidnapped white girls; celebrity scandals; and the imminent threat of hurricane, earthquake or flood, I began to think about how these digital images and text operated, one day influencing our daily discourse, the next day vanishing without a trace. Digital leftovers reminded me of redundant computer programming. Code that was once useful, but later forgotten and obsolete.

**Topic: Computational Art, Appropriation, Remix, Surveillance, Genetic Algorithms**

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This performance will appropriate and remix source material from online surveillance web cams, as well as text from the website of the United State's Department of Homeland Security, thereby creating it's own voyeuristic stream of processed information. The audience becomes the observer and given the power to observe. Using genetic algorithms, replication introduces artifacts, and the photos break down. Information is then lost and the surveillance becomes incomplete.

**References:**

[1] Michel Foucault,  
 "Discipline & Punish",  
 Vintage, New York, 1995  
 [2]  
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