

urban occupation : ACTION

experiment : instant occupation



Image: Action in process

Source: Own work

authors / actors / participants:

Author: Trigger Happy TV

Actors: Ryan Finn

Participants: The unsuspecting public

title: Spy Games

location: Rosa Luxembourg Platz

date: may 1, 2009

manifesto:

The theme of my planned instant occupation of Rosa Luxembourg Platz is that of a secret agent or "spy". My intention is to try and interact with members of the public and make them believe they have just come into contact with such a person, or at least to the best of my capabilities.

To try and achieve this, I will employ two different techniques. The first method will comprise of attempting to make what is known as the "switch" or "drop off". This will involve me trying to pass a briefcase (insinuating important or "top secret" files are enclosed) to a member of the public and observing what their reaction is. While doing this I will use code names to communicate with the chosen individual to strengthen the belief that I am in fact a spy. This should hopefully induce an irregular response from that person if it is a success.

My second technique which I will experiment with on another member of the public will first involve me choosing a newspaper from the daily selection, and then altering it by cutting two eye holes in the centre. After the newspaper has been prepared I will attempt to stand beside or in front of a member of the public for as long as I can until they become uncomfortable enough with the situation to make a confrontation about it, or simply move on.

techniques / tools: The main tools for my interaction with the public will include a briefcase for making the "drop off", sunglasses to conceal my identity, a shirt and tie as this is the cliché attire for people in such lines of work and a headphone to act as an earpiece to portray I am wired to a surveillance team or something of the like.

action: The action taking place will involve me approaching random people on the street and attempting to perform what I have stated above. The techniques involved will include maintaining a certain type of behaviour that is associated with secret agents such as attempting to remain inconspicuous.

actual outcome:

Having carried out my planned action in Rosa Luxembourg Platz U-Bahn, it can be said that it was both a success and a failure in the sense that from attempting to provoke some sort of confrontation from the chosen individuals, it proved extremely difficult to do so.

Carrying out the switch was quite demanding as there was a language barrier to overcome as well as the bizarre nature of the act so this was probably the less successful of the two techniques.

Of the members of the public that were selected for the newspaper technique, no confrontation was made at all, even when they became aware of what I was doing. I found this interesting as it shows how the majority of the public will go out of their way as much as possible to avoid having to deal with awkward situations even when something is literally staring them in the face.

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the essentials...

sketch: Conceptual design

Source: Own work



Image: Train leaving station

Source: panoramio.com

bibliography:

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/3744954>