

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM NOT WORKING

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Global Positioning System, known as GPS and first developed by the US Dept. of Defence, promises to locate any destination and measure the distance to the destination from where we stand. What can be the device to measure the distance to a destination that is erased or lost or made to disappear? Disappearance has a recurring pattern. The people, evidences, living practices ... disappear again and again, and are made to do so in instalments. Yet various adamant attempts of reappearance keep contesting each instalment of disappearance.

This exhibition wishes to collate some of these 'reappearing disappearances' in different sites in order to facilitate dialogues among them. The love stories in Agha Shahid Ali's poem to a friend - living in the land from where Ali is exiled and in Maream Hmadeh's voice letters to her husband - who is far away in search of livelihood, are working here as a specific measurement device between longing and loss at the time of politics. Shahidul Alam's photographs of Dhaka in midnight melancholy first invoke the people murdered by the police yesterday, and then, they re-appear in Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's face recognition camera that would search for the look-alike of the disappeared students in the Mexico city.

Then, faces and facial features come haunting again in Rajkamal Kahlon's projection of Afghan men, documented under colonial anthropological scheme, over the found thermal footage of America-led bombing of Afghanistan in 2002. And we come home - at the corner of Keupstrasse and Schanzenstrasse, the site of NSU bombing and related structural violence on June 9, 2004 in Cologne. Ulf Aminde and NSU Complex Tribunal insist on keeping the site alive through a people's memorial.

The disappeared sites keep reappearing in different locations upsetting the Global Positioning System.

Artists: Agha Shahid Ali, Ahmad Gossein, Rafael Lozano-Henner, Rajkamal Kahlon, Shahidul Alam, Ulf Aminde for Unravelling NSU Complex Tribunal.