



unplace

networked art: places-between-places

Credits

S.A.R.L. GROUP

Code Name: OSCAR · 2015

Website and Facebook project

Web-specific work for the unplace exhibition

Biography

S.A.R.L. Group

The SARL group was formed in 2011, in Portugal.

It has built a sphere of collective activity that does not necessarily conform to the formats normally linked to the idea of an artists' collective – it is instead a continuous process of negotiation and questioning, a displaced struggle, knowing that the enemy is within ourselves, that it is an intrinsic part of who and what we are. The SARL group questions authenticity, the notions of appropriation and expropriation, using institutional validation tools and procedures. “Tupperwars” and “Quarto Escuro”, at the exhibition *Mandei-o matar porque não havia razão*, Torre do Tombo and Espaço Avenida, Lisboa (2011), *RAR.et GLORIA*, *Coffee Talks*, Zurich (2012). SARL has several fictional characters – undercover agents – active on Facebook.

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Description

OSCAR – *Organização Socio-Corporativa Auto-Reguladora* - Open Source Cluster of Armed Resources displays the progress of a research project on Facebook, enabling the visitor to enter into the game of reversible manipulations.

Surveillance, standardisation and regulation have all been subjected to new forms of presentation, but are not absent from social networks and virtual spaces: we have placed ourselves voluntarily in a kind of transparent building, in which power is exercised by all the others around us. OSCAR [Open Source Cluster of Armed Resources] is the Portuguese branch of an accredited research agency, with references and a solid past, which has a virtual existence, designed to “protect the identity of both clients and agents, in order to safeguard their security”. The agency has opened a website and has a Facebook page. The website presents a bureaucratic structure with countless departments and a vast catalogue, impacting on the system for immediate location and sub-division (*quadrillage*) that is typical of organisations of this type. Facebook reproduces the activity of an agent in the course of a research. The page’s followers are invited to work their way through the meanders of the microsystems of surveillance and control, accompanying the research in progress, in real time and during the unplace exhibition.

