

Amanda Wasielewski – Artist Statement – July 2014

My work in recent years has increasingly revolved around the relationship between technology and human beings – on an individual level, on the level of society and also concerning the greater economic and political systems we live in. While I am fascinated by technology, I am also aware of its anaesthetising potency. Although my work sometimes deals with historical technological systems, I am not interested in nostalgia or retro fashion but rather in the revelatory power of resurrecting obsolescent tools. Investigating these outdated or esoteric technologies aids the understanding of the cyborg nature of contemporary life and our current relationship with technology. During the past few years I have been focussed on the relationship between the intuitive human gesture versus a “gesture” that is more remote, programmatic and rational. I explore this dichotomy in a series centred on the characters of The Pilot and The Engineer. My practice is somewhat archaeological in that it involves uncovering niches, cul-de-sacs and subcultures buried beneath the visible surface of everyday life. If architecture, computers, broadcast devices and networks/the world wide web are all accepted to be forms of technology, then my work is often concerned with technological ruins. Many of these technological ruins demonstrate the pathways of modernist progress to our current status quo regarding technology.

The city is a technology. Within this city space, I am interested in reflecting upon overlooked city structures and subverting the purely functional use of the city environment. I am also attracted to pursuing art activities in non-art spaces, interacting with urban environments and people.