

Amanda Wasielewski – Artist Statement – June 2009

The majority of my work is a reflection on the delocalisation, telepresence, and virtuality that facilitates both the hypercapitalist economic system we live in and its alternatives, investigating how these technological phenomena create a population which is increasingly nomadic and/or geographically displaced. I am interested in exploring the immateriality of digital media and its relationship to the physical world, mainly through social interactions and urban space.

In a response which stems from those of Breton, Benjamin, Debord, and countless others, I have taken the modern city as an important site for these investigations. Urban dwelling and its facilitation is quite possibly the most important technological innovation in the historical development of modernism and capitalism. 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.

Due to my background in computer technology, mainly the internet and its manifestations, I am interested in creating work that is not necessarily self-contained in object form but rather spread out in an ongoing interaction. I want to waver between the physical and the digital world in a way that is both genuine and cynical. I am fascinated with technology but also aware of its anaesthetising potency. I do not see technology and art as inherently progressive entities which hold the power to independently reveal and un-make/make the world. Technology is not merely a tool and art is not merely aesthetic. Both art and technology have a similar intrinsic importance in cities that is difficult to artificially define. Pushing an agenda for social change through art belongs to an antiquated ideology I do not hold. My aim, despite the weight of the political at the core of my work, is to unleash a myriad of connotations that hopefully, in turn, will lead to some form of reflection, awareness or attitudinal change through the communication/exchange I set up between myself and the viewer.