

PLUS & MINUS productions



Composite video still: Connected
Meryl Fairns 2003

Duration: 25:00

Stereo sound/surround sound

Shot on SD DV

Master tape: DV CAM

Screening copies: Beta SP PAL; DVD

Single-channel video

Installation version: three-channel video, surround sound

SYNOPSIS

Shadows and reflections are cast on a small town in Central Australia by the long-term presence of a highly secretive US military base.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Alice Springs is one of the most isolated towns in Australia. In December 1966 an agreement was signed that allowed the construction of Pine Gap, a US-Australian Joint Defence Space Research facility, as a base for global satellite technology and one of the largest ground control centres in the world, just 17 kilometres outside of Alice. The base connected the world to Pine Gap. This work considers how disembodied and shadowy the experience of being constantly connected can be for local residents.

The work adopts a Pine Gap modus operandi. Sites are monitored, from the air and from the ground - Anzac Hill; the airport; the Pine Gap exit; Ormiston Gorge; Hermannsburg Mission; Katja Tjuta - to create a sense of a town and a landscape inhabited by shadows, mirages, and reflections.

People inhabit this space tenuously. You never get to see them. You hear from them, or about them. Every one around Alice Springs has a story, or a friend with a story, that connects to the base. These anecdotes interweave with intercepts from recent news reports; ambient sounds; static; Morse code from Telegraph Station, the roar of road trains speeding down the Stuart Highway; a lone didgeridoo.

CONNECTED has nine episodes.

Duration: 25:00, sound

CREDITS

written, directed, produced
MERILYN FAIRSKYE

camera
MERILYN FAIRSKYE

Post production : Greg Ferris@MSV

Voices

William Beattie, Frank Chien, Michiel Dolk, Neville Field, Russell Goldflam,
Patrick Hayes, Rose Landes, Pamela Lofts, Pip Mc McManus, Lesley Savage, Lisa
Stefanoff, Bill van Dijk, Trish van Dijk, Michael Watts, Mandy Webb

Pine Gap protest stills, 2002: Mandy Webb, Trish van Dijk

Dingoes audio - courtesy of LISTENING EARTH
<http://www.listeningearth.com.au>

Satellite images – Australia, Afghanistan, China, India, Korea, Pakistan: images courtesy
Jacques Descloitres and Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC
Iraq: Image provided by the USGS EROS Data Center Satellite Systems Branch

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Produced in association with the Australian Film Commission



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Three-channel production assisted by the Australia Council for the Arts

A Plus & Minus Production