

Maleficio

Rituals of the Illnatured

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Where is that missile supposed to be landing?

Being teased to deal in words with the notion of “Lo-Tech” and, to come close to the subject matter while engaging and defining such an overly oxygenated notion could be or mean within the kingdom of tropical maladies one should at the very least try first to map the place where targeted group strives to exist.

It would be relevant to address in parallel the very notion of tecne, (from ancient greek Τέχνη meaning craftsmanship, craft, or art) which is always the very essence of thought. A track that is way too foreign as the language I’m using here, while the main is to lineate a place where the idea of “low-tech” can be presented and studied in the context of a Colombian editorial project. One can easily guess that all imported (from Europe or the US) models fail miserably when trying to enact valuable practices or discourse on local South American communities. In the case of Colombia, a place that remains in the midst of sustained intellectual addiction to the “first” world, whatever comes from the outside is considered by default as better. All induced information flows get mixed up with a lack of identity, a leftover complex gift of the colonialist endeavors to erase all roots and history. Today we leave on such backlashes that is sadly driven and maintained by “Us” the locals. Colombians live currently an international seizure. Ostracized from a world that is a forbidden place, while at the same time they get bombarded without mercy, via mass mediated images, news-lines, lifestyles, and what not.

Only about 14 countries on the planet allow Colombians to freely enter their territory. Most of these neighboring countries.

Instead of looking out to what the “Other” is producing under the low-tech slogan, we should subvert the approach and put our attention to reconsider why and how are those (“made in Colombia”) minisubmarines being built?[1]

It’s not just a “criminal” act as the media will put it. Fearlessly, we should think about how their navigational and communications systems can be

improved, following drone designs to avoid putting the life of the desperate in risk. Or, a less life threatening task, how can we build simple helical antennas and beam signals onto geostationary satellites to create networks for people living in the most remote locations (this has been done and proved to work and in a cheap and easy way so would remove telecommunications companies and data transmission ISP's). Activity from Brazilian pirates is mostly on 255.550 MHZ but one can also hear them on 266.66 – 262.2 AOR ftscom 8. Some Russian pirates are discovering this UHF realm and make test calls on 257,000 and 257,900 MHZ via a IOR (Indian Ocean Region) satellite.

It will be then the so called "Other" and not "Us" who would follow this free will examples of insurrection. We are all here receiving a call on civil disobedience. [Fig. 1]



Fig. 1: A 4 elements yagi antenna for 260mhz UHF Military band

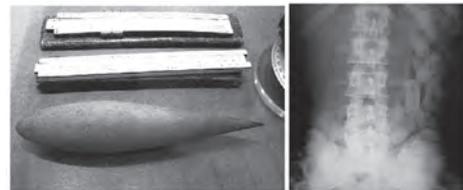


Fig. 2: Cocaine balls via X-rays – 10 to 15 condom made balls each containing 10grm of cocaine

From homegrown Coca-Cola recipes, USD, Euros or Australian (known to be one of the most secure systems) currency falsification, Black Cocaine, drug cartel messaging pigeons, radio techniques from 50 year old guerrilleros, GPS guided european border crossing (nothing to do with Heath Buntings project). This is only a short list of practices that some will classify as illegal, all bond by the kinship of the praxis tracing communities that are not the often quoted examples by Negri, Hardt, Klein, Moore, etc. to define their notion of multitude. There will be no more knowlledge than this on the practices of the everyday life taking place in most of the places of the developed world.

People pushed by the need to survive acquire and develop a way of living fearless of death, such techniques could be mistakenly labelled as "low-tech," but I claim them far from such a classification cause they actually enact a will to power, a particular philosophy of living. [Fig. 2]

Many Southern people stand with such an attitude, pushed and driven by the basic needs to survive and operate. They conform communities, systems which perform as "life technologies" (like individually we do our breathing, walking or shitting), invisible technologies that we could also define as "high tech" appropriation. A 'dispositif' that has managed to force a detour on established social economical structures (from the upraise of the indigenous communities movements in South America to the Pirate Party in Swe-

den). If one can't acknowledge this, then there will be no point introducing overhyped notions of "low tech", it will be all reduced to designers marketing strategies for selling online and offline little gadgets on the hype of the "Green", "enviromantally aware" or the "radical artist" posing as counscious actor. It makes me see the MAKE magazine as todays version of what the Radio Shack catalog was for the American household but expanded to the global scale market.

References

- * [Roxy Music]: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4J6Uyv0JDY&feature=related>
- [1] [mini submarines]: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narco_submarine
- [2] [are being built]: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/26/magazine/26drugs-t.html?_r=2&pagewanted=all
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