

# Launch of GPSdiary.org

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web-site: <http://www.gpsdiary.org>

GPSdiary.org is an online archive of an art project, in which artist Thorsten Knaub recorded his daily movements over the course of a year by carrying a Global Positioning System (GPS) in order to continually map his movements. The project explores ideas of surveillance, our relationship with technology and questions where daily life stops and artistic activity begins.

The GPS technology was initiated by the U.S. Department of Defence to facilitate accurate global navigation and military targeting. It makes use of a network of 24 satellites, any three of which can be used to triangulate one's position.

The artist utilises these GPS satellites to record any change of his position on the surface of the earth. Therefore any kind of movement will be charted according to the latitude and longitude grid system, e.g. a walk to the local shop results in a small 'drawing', a day spent at home will be recorded as a dot only but a journey on the London Underground results in a straight line between the tube station where he is out of range of the GPS satellites.

The representation of daily routines and movements through the mediating layers of technology reduces daily life into an abstract graph consisting of virtual co-ordinates. Devoid of any information associated with traditional forms of the diary, the GPS diary presents a dehumanised and detached form of the diary, rendered by a remote technology orbiting 12,000 miles above the earth.

Through this 'high-tech' form of the diary, the artist also blurs the borders between artistic activity and everyday life. Traditionally one way artists express themselves is the creation of drawings or paintings by applying marks onto a given surface using tools like pencils, pens or brushes. However, in the GPS diary project the artist's body itself becomes a tool and its actual movement in social-geographical space the gesture. Everyday life and artistic gesture merge into one.

GPSdiary.org makes it now possible to view each day's trajectory individually and additionally it will function as a platform for art projects using GPS technology in the future.

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