DIGITAL IMAGING

SURVEILLANCE

RECONNAISSANCE

GEOPOLITICS

CONFLICT

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

IMAGE INTELLIGENCE

ARCHIVES

PHOTOGRAPHY

EVAN HUME

Art and Visual Culture
Assistant Professor


HIGHLIGHTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Sonic Interventions will be featured in Evan Hume's presentation Photographic Disruptions in Declassified Archives at the College Art Association Annual Conference and as part of the Archivo Platform's webinar series, "Archive & Conflict." He is a 2024 Visiting Researcher for Archivo and will be contributing an essay on his photography research to the platform's Photofile digital publication series.

Hume's monograph, **Viewing Distance**, published by Daylight Books in 2021, continues to receive recognition. The book was featured in the January-February 2024 print edition of **Fisheye Magazine**, titled Combat. The issue addresses the ways photo-based artists are currently grappling with war in images.
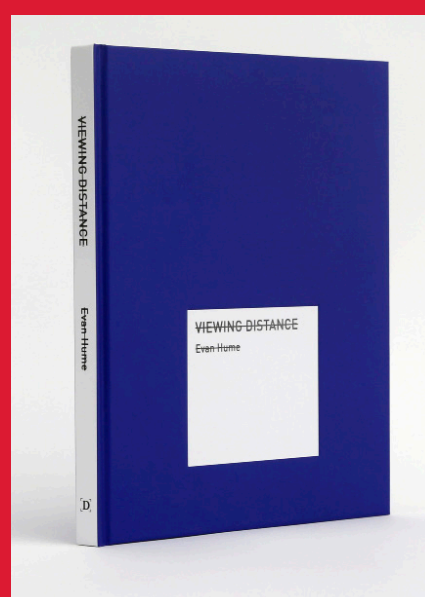
Book cover of Viewing Distance, published by Daylight Books in 2021.

Cover of January-February 2024 issue of Fisheye Magazine titled Combat.

He recently received a $10,000 Publication Subvention Grant for Scholarly Works from ISU's Office of the Vice President for Research to support his forthcoming monograph, **Critical Collection: Image Intelligence and Empire**, to be published by Daylight Books in 2025. The book project is also supported by Strategic Opportunity Funds from the College of Design.

Hume contributed the chapter "**Beyond this Door: Photographic Vision and Carceral Experience**" to the book Higher Education and the Carceral State: Transforming Together, detailing his experience teaching photography in a college in prison program and his students' work as part of the Moreau College Initiative at Westville Correctional Facility in Westville, Indiana. The book will be published by Routledge in March 2024.

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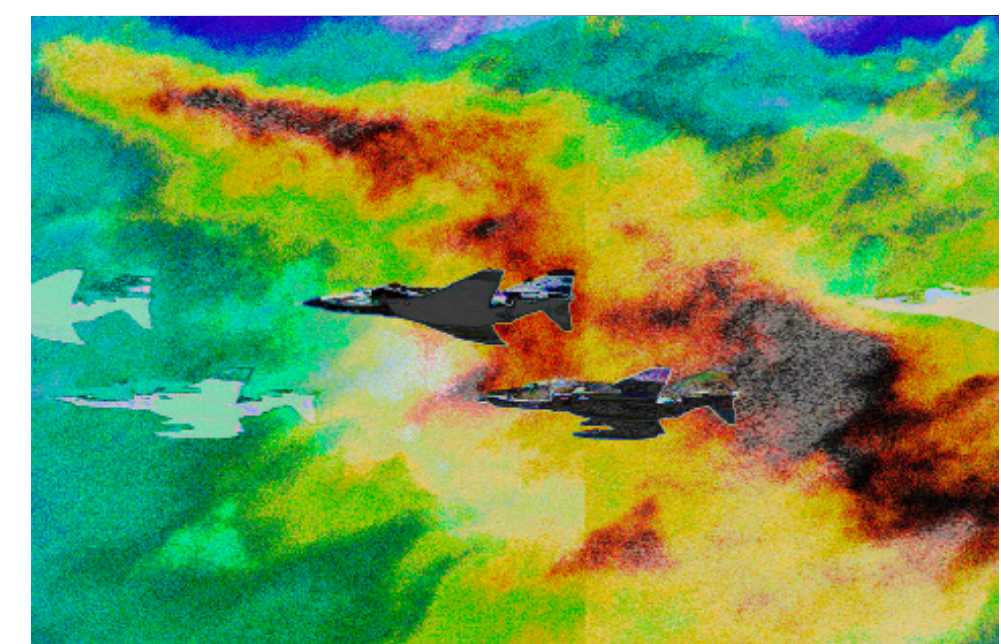**College of Design**

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT

SONIC INTERVENTIONS

"The truth is in the noise" was a slogan used by the US Air Force's Special Analysis Branch, a signals intelligence (SIGINT) division now part of the Sixteenth Air Force organization responsible for various intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance activities. US military aircraft patrol the globe, intercepting electronic communications, and photographing sites of interest to intelligence agencies. The "truth" uncovered through such operations is largely inaccessible to the public, kept secret to establish and maintain dominance in an almost invisible information war. Hume's series, Sonic Interventions is a recent body of work made primarily with declassified photographs of historical and contemporary SIGINT and supersonic reconnaissance aircraft. The project builds on his previous series Viewing Distance, which is comprised of works made from declassified archival photographs to trace the development of photography as an instrument of the US military-industrial complex for reconnaissance, surveillance, and documentation of advanced technologies.
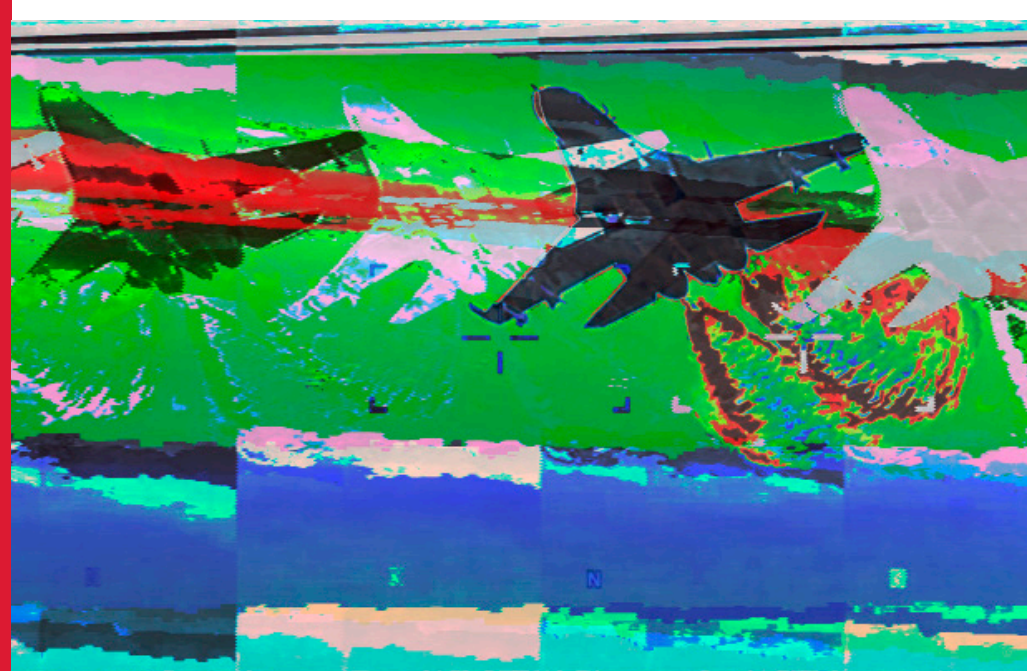

MQ-4C Triton (Pitch Shift + Reverb)
The MQ-4C Triton is a high-altitude long endurance surveillance drone operated by the US Navy. This image is from the Sonic Interventions series and has been processed using digital audio workstation software.

RF-4B Phantom II (Delay)
The RF-4B is the photoreconnaissance variant of the F-4 Phantom II, the most produced supersonic aircraft in history. It was used by the US Marine Corps in the Vietnam War. This image is from the Sonic Interventions series and has been processed using digital audio workstation software.

US MQ-9 Reaper drone colliding with Russian Su-27 over the Black Sea, March 14, 2023 (Delay)
The source image for this was from video taken by a US drone that was damaged by Russian military aircraft over international water during the current Russia-Ukraine War. This image is from the Sonic Interventions series and has been processed using digital audio workstation software.

E-3 Sentry with F-15 Eagles (Echo)
The E-3 Sentry is an Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft used by the US and NATO for surveillance and communications. This image is from the Sonic Interventions series and has been processed using digital audio workstation software.

Taking inspiration from the concurrent development of high-altitude reconnaissance camera systems and supersonic military aircraft and their combined uses since the early Cold War, Hume alters the photographs he has sourced for Sonic Interventions by processing them with digital audio workstation software. This process visually changes photographs of subjects related to sound by using programs intended for the manipulation of sound. He brings an image file saved as a bitmap into audio editing software by telling the program to import the image file as raw data. Effects can be added to the image file in the program, and it can then be exported as a RAW file and viewed. Sound is not actually being added to the image file, but the image file is being treated by the audio program as is if it were a sound file. Applying effects such as echo or delay to the image file results in visual elements repeating within the photograph, creating an optical analog to auditory echo and vibration, and changing the color and composition of the image to represent the energy of weaponized sound and speed as an expression of power. By altering the photographs, Hume is creating alternative ways of visualizing often unseen forms of global surveillance, advanced technologies, and clandestine military operations that play a significant role in the preservation of US hegemony.