Digital Imagery in Human-Computer Interaction Design
Project 4.A Digital Imagery as Social Mechanism: Awareness and Social Change
Thursday February 25th 2010

Eli Blevis, Associate Professor of Informatics

**Project**
Find or create your own images or illustrations which denote or picture how digital imagery is implicated as a mechanism of social awareness and social change. This is a design research project—I am not interested in your original concepts, but rather things you find by observation or secondary sources that are interesting and compelling. Choose three contrasting images or illustrations. At least one of your choices must be connected to digital technologies in some way.

Explain why your choices complement or contrast one another and what’s interesting about them. To do so, you may want to use or research some of the following terms: Digital image processing, algorithmic image generation, social mechanisms of awareness, journalism versus gallery orientations, alternative publishing mechanisms. This list of terms is by no means complete—use your own initiative to relate your research to existing concepts in interaction design and HCI as best you can.

**Format:**
Your project must be presented on three and only three landscape mode pages in pdf format. The first page should be a sketch, the second page should be your final research or concept, and the third page should be your primary and secondary attributions lists, as in the example/model solution that follows. Upload your work to oncourse, as instructed in class. Be certain to reference all of your sources accurately and completely.

The example on the pages that follow gives an idea of what a design research project could look like for the purposes of this class project. The example is by no means the most ideal project—yours should not be longer, but it can and ideally should be more compelling and interesting. **Note that I have not provided a sketch this week, but you should.**

**DUE Thursday March 4th no later than 9:00 AM**
A FINAL form completed project.
The Basel Action Network site reports on the “The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.” The site provides resources for understanding the global state of e-waste policies and practices. It provides many compelling and widely distributed photographs that it makes available to journalists.

Chris Jordan is a highly regarded photographer who uses digital techniques to make very compelling large gallery oriented images targeted at providing greater understanding of global social issues such as consumerism, waste, and the environmental effects of consumerism.

Edward Burtynsky describes the theme of his work as “Nature transformed through industry.” Burtynsky's themes are similar to Chris Jordan’s, but his techniques involve more direct, less digitally processed photographs. The use of very deliberate wide angle high resolution imagery makes his images very compelling as social commentary and mechanism of awareness.

(All sites referenced on this page accessed on 2.25.2010)
Primary Attributions
None

Secondary Attributions
source: www.ban.net
source: www.chrisjordan.com
source: www.edwardburtnsky.com