

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

New Exhibition by Julie Anand and Damon Sauer to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Ground Truth: Corona Landmarks,” a photography exhibition by Julie Anand and Damon Sauer. The exhibition opens Sept. 24 and will remain on view through Feb. 22, 2019, at the National Academy of Sciences.

In this series of photographs of what remains of the Corona project, Julie Anand and Damon Sauer investigate our relationship to the vast networks of information that encircle the globe. The Corona project was a CIA and U.S. Air Force surveillance initiative that began in the 1960s and ended in 1972. It involved using cameras on satellites to take aerial photographs of the Soviet Union and China. The cameras were calibrated with concrete targets on the ground that are 60 feet in diameter, which provided a reference for scale and ensured images were in focus.

Approximately 273 of these concrete targets were placed on a 16-square-mile grid in the Arizona desert, spaced a mile apart. Long after Corona’s end and its declassification in 1995, around 180 remain, and Anand and Sauer have spent three years photographing them as part of an ongoing project. In their images, each concrete target is overpowered by an expansive sky, onto which the artists map the paths of orbiting satellites that were present at the moment each photograph was taken. For Anand and Sauer, “these markers of space have become markers of time, representing a poignant moment in geopolitical and technologic social history.” This exhibition features six large photographs and a grid of 14 smaller works. Also on view is an interactive map of the targets Anand and Sauer have photographed to date and a video detailing their process.

Anand and Sauer are artists and educators based in Phoenix, Arizona. Anand is currently associate professor in the School of Art at Arizona State University and Sauer serves as an assistant professor at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh—Online Division. Both received their MFA degrees in Photography from the University of New Mexico and began collaborating in 2005. Works from the series are in the collections of the Michener Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

“Ground Truth: Corona Landmarks” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required and there is no charge. For more information, visit www.cpnas.org. Watch a short video about the show at <https://youtu.be/iIMTjjHOIE>.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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Press images:



Clockwise from upper left: *Calibration Mark AE48 with Satellites*, 2018, archival inkjet print, 30 x 24 inches; *Calibration Mark AM43 with Satellites*, 2016, archival inkjet print, 30 x 24 inches; *Calibration Mark AF49 with Satellites*, 2016, archival inkjet print, 30 x 24 inches; *Calibration Mark AF48 with Satellites*, 2018, archival inkjet print, 30 x 24 inches.

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