

Paolo Cirio (IT/US)

Sociality

This artwork documents over twenty-thousand patents exposing socially' hazardous information technology. In *Sociality*, Cirio has collected and rated inventions submitted to the U.S. patent office. He invited participants to share, flag, and ban these technologies designed to monitor and manipulate social behaviors. The patent images and data were obtained by Cirio through hacking the Google Patents search engine. Then he rated the patents and created thousands of compositions with images of flowcharts and titles of inventions, which were published on the site *Sociality.today*. The visual compositions on the website were printed in form of posters and a coloring book for informing on devices that enable discrimination, polarization, addiction, deception, and surveillance. The concept of turning patents into vehicles for regulations aims to exploit intellectual property law as a tool for democratic oversight. This work integrates both the dystopia surrounding technology and the

utopia of democratic oversight with flowcharts of patents taking the form of documentary and protest art. With this problematizing piece, Cirio exposes evidence of social manipulation and questions the ethical, legal, and economic structures of such technological apparatuses. In the exhibition, the public confronts large-scale compositions with hundreds of images of flowcharts that abstractly invoke the complexity and magnitude of such uncanny plans to program people.



Out of the Box

The Midlife Crisis of the Digital Revolution



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