

Chris Revelle
Statement

A New York Times/CBS poll conducted on September 10th 2007 revealed that 33% of Americans believed that Saddam Hussein was personally involved in the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. An Australian journalist, John Pilger, once said, “[American] propaganda [is] so vast in scope that I'm always astonished that so many Americans know and understand as much as they do.” Throughout the history of United States, truth has been manufactured to create movements of blind patriotism based on fear and anger. Developing from the explosion of the USS Maine in Havana, Cuba igniting the Spanish-American War and the alleged attacks on the USS Maddox and the USS Turner Joy in Gulf of Tonkin, which lead to the Vietnam War, to the September 11th attacks and the disinformation of nuclear weapons that fueled the Iraq War. Today, disinformation and bias opinions are still presented as the reliable truth, while the unimaginable reality is concealed and criticized.

My work is an attempt to spread awareness on issues such as human and civil rights abuses, corporate and government corruption through cooperation, American militarism and imperialism, through the same means that limit information. My art works off of the implied trust and faith that has developed through the decades in the established systems of news, information, and government. My work operates by providing unpopular information, through publications and graphic design, such as postcards, brochures, advertisements, books and exhibitions.

In an attempt to represent the true “Social Responsibility” of Starbucks, I altered 2 Starbucks advertisements in a piece entitled *I am Starbucks*. In 2005, Starbucks opened a location in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 3 years after the U.S. Naval Base was transformed into a detention center. Since 2005, Starbucks has opened 2 more locations on the base. The art replaced the images and stories within the original advertisements, which stated, “I am Starbucks”, with images and stories of Guantanamo Bay detainees. The adjusted advertisements were then placed back into Starbucks within the Valencia, CA area for the general public.

The intention of my work is to create motivation within the viewer to question current events and its history, while finding their own answers.