James Bridle’s Dronestagram (2012-ongoing) is an Instagram account where he posts aerial images from Google Satellite of locations where covert drone strikes have occurred following reports by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. Bridle’s images are devoid of the horror of the strike’s aftermath, removed from the news journalism context in which we are more accustomed to encounter them. Whitewashed through the app’s universal design, the images lose some of their power, even as they reach hundreds more viewers. Bridle uses the social media platform as a form of critical photojournalism, he is simply re-posting readily available images of geographical locations and information freely available in the public domain. Initially provocative, Bridle creates social awareness of violent drone activity by actually revealing nothing at all. The issue at hand – the lack of any actual images of the aftermath of the strikes – is more subtle, often completely missed by the comments on Bridle’s account, ranging from shock at the “content,” appreciation of his work, and often a complete misunderstanding of both.

Jenny Odell negotiates the complex arguments around public aerial photography. Like Bridle, she questions what these satellite images actually represent. In her series of photographs, All the People on Google Earth (2012), Odell removes the backgrounds on images from Google Earth, leaving only the insect-like abstractions of people. Little information can be gleaned about the individuals, an argument Google uses when claiming that such photography is not an invasion of privacy. Similar arguments were made by the NSA, who claimed that only metadata, not names and phone numbers, are being transcribed. Odell’s photographs adjust the conversation from the expectation of privacy to the reality of mass surveillance. What are our rights if we do not exist as individuals? Are these images indicative of a greater harm?
but more uncomfortable to be watching others in a senior
perhaps more expected to be recorded while in an art gallery,
and private are re-analyzed as the viewers find themselves
unfold through silent visual communication.
when watching live cams, perusing our colleague's social
surveyed, Scher prophesies the psychological rush we feel
in a senior gallery space with a recording of elderly women in a senior
attention to these unseen observers since then.
televisions (CCTVs) have "protected" ATMs, city streets, even
before Google began photographing topographies in 2007.
protection of privacy? Could friends, family, co-workers,
that images are time-delayed by a few months provide
an eerie genre painting of daily urban life.
Ghosts stalkers, creative and otherwise. Simultaneously, his
actions, Cirio pushes the boundaries of acceptable image usage,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
(2012-ongoing) return the figures caught
Julia Scher, Mothers Under Surveillance, 1992, video installation
Julia Scher, Mothers Under Surveillance, 1992, video installation
With whom has the artist been able to view images is a key method of
controlling information from others. A key aspect of The Society of Surveillance is the contradictory restrictions placed
on image and information access. The tightly controlled release of information about the alleged assassination of
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,
also culling imagery from Google's mapping software,