

DEM PASSWORDS GALLERY

5413 West Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016

March 21 - April 11, 2015
opening reception Saturday, March 21, 6-10 pm

City of Redactions Deborah Natsios

City of Redactions excavates Cold War border-crossings that fissure the internal boundaries of New York's post-9/11 security city.

Deborah Natsios' border atlas of mapping, video and text deploys micro-history's narrative legends to decrypt landscapes redacted by the surveillance state's persistent geo-strategic abstractions.

Natsios' micro-cartographies rewrite histories of Cold War containment sites to construct granular scales for New York City's emerging public domains.

New York City's containments are Natsios' autobio(geo)graphic destination as well as her object of study. The city's diasporic geographies recapitulate her own peripatetic upbringing.

During the Cold War's quarter-century height, her father's stations as a senior officer of the CIA clandestine service mobilized the transient family beneath the redactions of capital cities in seven foreign countries across three continents. Among these lived sites, the Cold War topographies of Greece, Korea and Vietnam have become keys to Natsios' decryptions.

City of Redactions builds on Deborah Natsios' longtime collaboration with John Young -- as New York City architects and co-founders in 1996 of Cryptome, the open access online library that challenges secrecy's regime of the covert, redacted and excluded: "Cryptome welcomes documents for publication that are prohibited by governments worldwide, in particular material on freedom of expression, privacy, cryptology, dual-use technologies, national security, intelligence, and secret governance -- open, secret and classified documents -- but not limited to those."

After the attacks of 9/11, supply chains dispersing into New York City from conflict diasporas of the 'global South' were interdicted by a covert biopolitics of mobility deeply rooted in Cold War containments.

Diasporic migrants transiting into the city were captured by mobile policing regimes that imposed 21st century urban containments through next-generation technologies of command-and-control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

City of Redactions examines the legacy topographies of Cold War biopolitics that are presented as backstories for present-day chronicles of conflict diaspora.

Superimposed onto the port city's sedimented narratives of control, Natsios' micro-cartographies challenge the global city's post-9/11 identity as nexus of hardened internal boundaries.

