

membrana

Membrana Vol. 8 No. 2 (2023)

Call for papers & projects: *War*

Images of war have always been torn between instrumentality (advocacy, propaganda, documentation) and operativity (visual representations as part of operational warfare). They have also been continuously haunted by the sense of inadequateness of visual representation of the real. Whether at the operative level (strategic and tactical) or at the instrumental level – it seems that especially at the latter the sense of inadequateness of the representability of violence prevailed and to some extent challenged the contribution of images to our desire to understand, avoid, or prevent wars and violent conflicts. Furthermore, on the operational level, the visualization is split between image-based algorithmic systems on one and the visualization of data on other hand (ex. interfaces).

The changed conditions of visibility and communication practices from the middle to late 20th century not only blur the line between images used to conduct war operations and those aimed at representing the conflicts but moreover these conditions destabilize the position of the viewer, posing questions well beyond questions “regarding the pain of others”. Not only are present-day conflicts visualized on an unprecedented scale, but they also increasingly depend on forms of distanced and automated visibility, on algorithmic rather than human vision.

The upcoming issue of *Membrana* journal (Vol 8 No 2) provides space for critical reflection on the role of visualization technologies (photography, video, animation, 3D modeling, data visualization, and cinema) in mediating and constructing contemporary but also past wars and their representations. Authors are also invited to reflect on the shifting nature of visual evidence and its uses in the operational structures of war, mainstream media, social networks, art projects, investigative journalism, and vernacular activism (OSINT media, citizen-witness media). *Membrana* (Vol 8 No 2) provides a platform for engaging with (but not limited to) the following topics:

- War, aesthetics, and visual representation
- Shifting paradigms: from the violence of the image to images of violence
- Visual evidence and/in armed conflict
- War and visual propaganda
- Spectatorship and violence
- Data visualization and visual modeling
- Algorithmization of visibility
- Operational and/or automated image systems in warfare
- Open-source intelligence (OSINT)
- War interfaces, decision-making process, evidence
- Armed conflicts and image-based activism
- Vernacular (civilian and soldier) visual witnessing of war
- Icons, memes, and social media representations of war

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- Collateral Damage: images of refugees, veterans, camps, and ruins
- Unending war: documenting long wars and military-industrial complexes
- The hegemony of the Western hemisphere in global news distribution and its consequences in creating news

Format of contributions

- Articles, interviews – including notes, references, abstract, and biography 21,000–49,000 characters / 3000–7000 words
- Reviews, experiments 10,500–21,000 characters / 1500–3000 words
- Photographic projects and artwork: proposals for non-commissioned work or samples of work

Proposals and deadlines

- The deadline for contribution proposals (150-word abstracts and/or visuals) is **June 22, 2023**. The deadline for the finished contributions from accepted proposals and other submissions is **August 21, 2023**.
- Please send proposals (*articles, interviews, projects and experiments*) via the online form at: <https://www.membrana.org/proposal/> or contact us directly at editors(at)membrana.org.
- Please send article submissions (**excluding** *interviews, projects and experiments*) via the online form at: <https://www.journals.membrana.org/index.php/membrana/about/submissions> or contact us directly at editors(at)membrana.org.

More information about the contributions can be found at:

<https://www.journals.membrana.org/index.php/membrana/about/submissions>.

The contributions will be published in the English edition – journal *Membrana* (ISSN 2463-8501; eISSN: 2712-4894) and/or in the Slovenian edition – magazine *Fotografija* (ISSN 1408-3566; eISSN: 1855-8941).

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