

# Landscape Painting as Counter Surveillance Update

From: **Joel Slayton**  
Date: Fri, 16 May 1997 14:59:03 -0800  
Subject: Landscape Painting as Counter Surveillance Update

Landscape Painting as Counter-Surveillance is a project created by artists from the CADRE Institute (Computers in Art and Design/Research and Education) of San Jose State University. CADRE is an interdisciplinary academic and research program dedicated to the exploration of new media technology. For documentation of the project see:  
<http://cadre.sjsu.edu/area210>

We are currently evolving the website to include a direct mail process for purchase of the paintings on exhibit at the Area 51 Research Center ( \$51.51, with the RC receiving a 51% commission) and documentation and research surrounding the project. We are currently culling over 20 hours of video tape which includes interviews, event proceedings and encounters.

The project is being presented on Friday the 23rd at the Annual CADRE Symposium.

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In an earlier posting an 'observer' referred to our group as The Artists, an unsolicited compliment. The danger he alludes to was indeed real, not because our activities were postured in a provocative matter relative to Area 51's security, but rather because he and his entourage were emersed within an art experiment involving information strategies and surveillance. I remember one of them saying she liked the colors. Pretending to pretend is dangerous.

I advise the purchase of a painting. Their intention, clearly stated, was formed as a strategy of 'jus- in-good-fun" manipulation towards us. We have no anomisty towards this view, but rather fully respect it. His apprehension of artists was understandable. Respect is however, desired. In that they unknowingly served as an element in a counter-surveillance strategy, we offer them support by inclusion. Purchase of one of the paintings (there are 20), would provide for a deeping of participation within our project. It is a chance to see how serious art becomes 'serious art'. One of many good reasons for owning a painting of Area51.

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