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Postscripts to Revolution

June 3 – July 2, 2016

Curated by Genevieve Quick

Morehshin Allahyari, Jeffrey Skoller, Slinko, and Ehren Tool

**Opening Reception:
Friday, June 3, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Gallery Hours:
12:00 – 6:00 PM, Tuesday – Saturday**



Morehshin Allahyari, *Material Speculation: ISIS*, 2016. Courtesy the artist.

May 19, 2016, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure presents *Postscripts to Revolution*, a group exhibition featuring Morehshin Allahyari, Jeffrey Skoller, Slinko, and Ehren Tool.

Postscripts to Revolution invites viewers to consider the distinctions between war and revolution and how we remember, react to, or imagine systemic change. In revisiting and engaging with specific or fictive histories, these artists confront both the failures and potentialities of revolution. They grapple with the calls for radical change even while aware of its frequently tragic outcomes.

Revolutionary narratives are, by nature, mutable and subject to interpretation, retroactively sequenced according to the perspectives and purposes of nation-state actors and true believers alike. The artists of *Postscripts to Revolution*, rather than aligning along any ideological aim or utopian vision, do not shy away from the losses that arise in the wake of revolutionary violence or from implicating themselves in the geopolitical conflicts they revisit and imagine. But by interjecting humor and poetry into their explorations, they remind us that revolution is a human-scale endeavor, in both its aspirations and execution.

In *Material Speculations: ISIS*, Allahyari recreates small-scale models of cultural artifacts that ISIS has destroyed. Her revival is a mark of protest and of the resilience of culture: even when its symbols are destroyed, it can be recreated, remembered, and reimagined. Slinko fuses magic and humor with ambivalence toward nationalism in videos that evoke the food scarcities that have spurred uprisings from the French Revolution to the Arab Spring. As a U.S. veteran from the first Gulf War, Tool memorializes the lives lost in battle by shooting hand-thrown ceramic cups with a gun. As the bullets shatter the delicate vessels, one feels the loss of both human life and the camaraderie that surrounds it. Skoller, whose political activity goes back to the 1980s, creates a three-channel video projection from found and original footage

shot during the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua and in Vietnam decades after the war. The juxtaposition of these two conflicts evokes the devastating consequences of proxy wars and expansionist invasions. Yet Skoller's soundtrack, which features both excerpts from Kafka and personal reflections, imparts the work with empathy and lyricism.

The human-scale moments of imagination, reflection, and resistance in *Postscripts to Revolution* invite us to consider alternative histories and potentialities through the work of artists who hold varied and nuanced relationships to the idea of revolution.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *Postscripts to Revolution*
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Lisa Martin at (415) 863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Admission is always FREE. Website: www.soex.org.

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