Point of Access- #21

The cultural phenomena of watching is no surprise. Individuals will describe their personality by saying “I’m a people watcher”, reality television allows us to become voyeurs, and the popularity of interest groups like YouTube testifies to our desire to “peep” in on others’ home videos. However, we are witnessing the edits of all of these situations. We watch people (for the most part) who have chosen to operate within social expectations, reality TV is composed of all the moments someone has spliced together to hold our interest, and even YouTube is first edited by the creator and then by the community who decides if the video is in line with set policies and standards.

Not only are our edits cyclical but so is our watching. Someone is monitoring our web site usage to decide what is popular, the television show we are watching is gaining or losing points based on viewers, and even as we watch the person squeeze every tomato in produce chances are a camera somewhere nearby has been or soon will be watching us. There is nothing new in these statements, and why we watch is no surprise either. Even though there’s a multitude of minor reasons, the major one is the expectation/desire that an event will occur, however minor, or in the case of the camera in the store that it will prevent an event from occurring.

#21 places you well into this cycle of watching where you will simultaneously be the viewer and the subject, the performer and the critic, but like most cycles of watching you do not have access to view your self. Your participation is central to the exhibition as the work is not complete until you define the space with your presence. #21 is a continuation of experiments into the nature of our perceptions, our understanding of access/denial, and the familiarity of presence. Welcome.