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# **Confronting Privilege in Resistance: Masked Inequality in Artistic Responses to Ubiquitous Surveillance**

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# Anti-surveillance Camouflage and Transparent Whiteness: A Critique of the Aestheticization of Resistance



# Visuality and Marginalizing Surveillance

- Normalization of state control through techniques of classification.
- Denies “the right to look back.”
- Racist and/or neocolonial aims.
- “Marginalizing surveillance”: produces conditions and identities of marginality through its very application (Monahan, 2010)

Mirzoeff, Nicholas. 2011. *The Right to Look: A Counterhistory of Visuality*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Monahan, Torin. 2010. *Surveillance in the Time of Insecurity*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

# Questioning Anti-surveillance Camouflage

- Does it achieve countervisuality?
  - Does it denaturalize the discriminatory orders of state-corporate apparatuses?
  - Does it force recognition of people as possessing legitimate autonomy and agency?
  - Does it have the capacity and valence to transform systems of oppression?
- What does anti-surveillance camouflage perform exactly?

# Face Paint and Hairstyles



"CV Dazzle," Adam Harvey.



# Masking and Weaponizing Faces



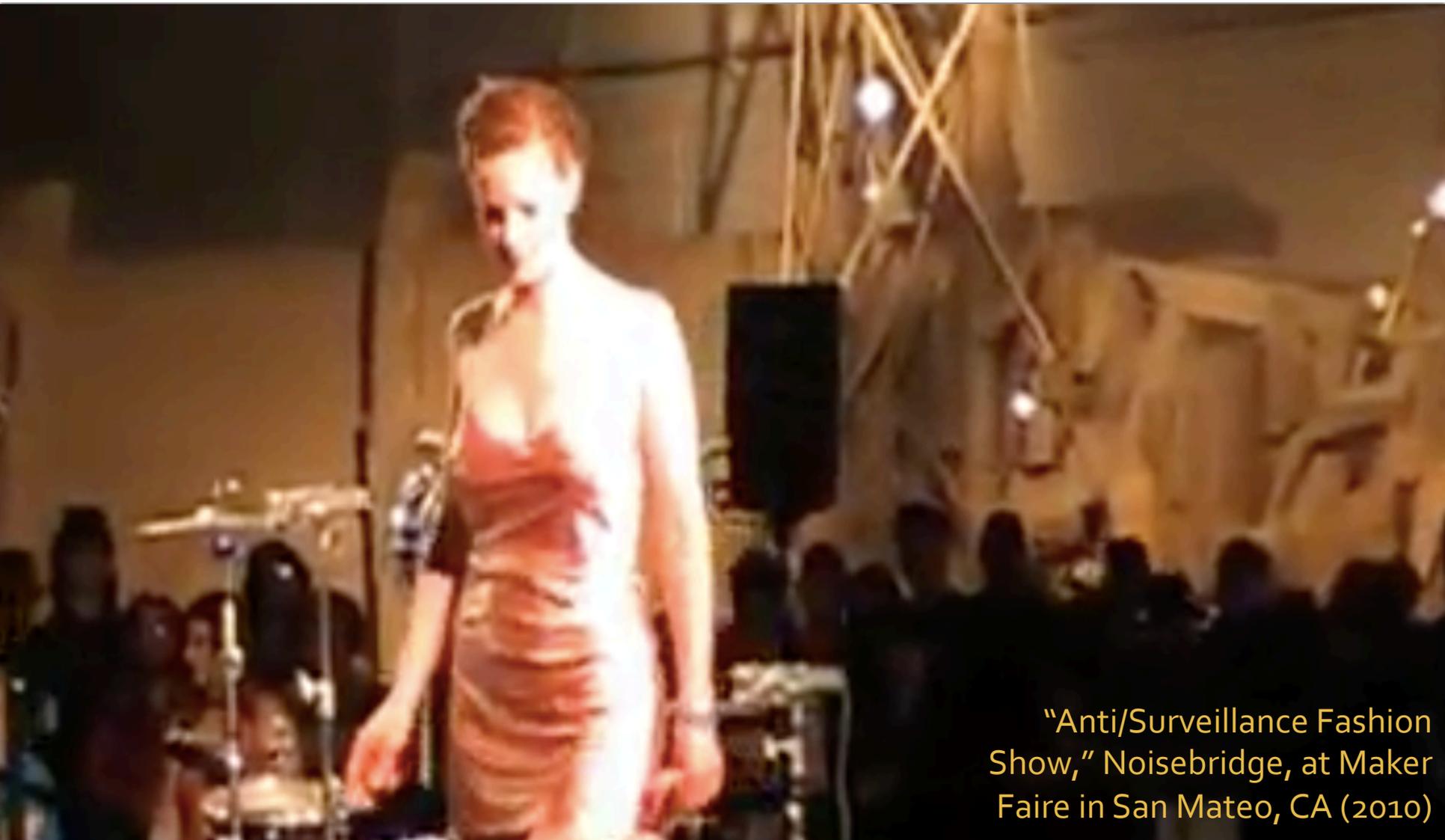
"URME," Leo Selvaggio

# Masking and Weaponizing Faces



"Facial Weaponization Suite,"  
Zach Blas

# Surveillance Fashion Runway



"Anti/Surveillance Fashion Show," Noisebridge, at Maker Faire in San Mateo, CA (2010)

# Conclusion

- What does anti-surveillance camouflage perform?
  - Challenges symbolic violence of identification and tracking
  - Recognizes augmented vulnerabilities for women or LGBT groups
  - Play of individual avoidance, through adaptation
  - Discourses of universalism, privacy
  - Normalizes structural conditions of inequality and danger

# Questions . . .

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