

NATE RICCIUTO

THE CURIOSITY MOTIVE

Self-sufficiency and the agency to craft one's own world were core principles of 1960s back-to-the-earth and counterculture movements, but these ideas have also been fundamental to groups and individuals claiming less altruistic revolutionary intentions. *The Curiosity Motive* is a phrase borrowed from Ted Kaczynski's 1995 essay "Industrial Society and Its Future," which was written in an isolated cabin in Montana. Under threats of violence from Kaczynski, the *Washington Post* published the 35,000-word manifesto on September 19, 1995. This declaration of a deranged man posits that genuine scientific inquiry is simply a myth, created to conceal the greed and self-interest that drives an industrialized society to exploit the natural world and subjugate human beings. In stressing the give-and-take relationship between necessity, nature, and technology, I hope to reconsider our understanding of legacies of resistance and the myths that surround them.

My work engages with delusion and speculation in opening up fragmentary spaces where imagination and perception can become tactile and fluid. I am curious about the ways that visions of the future continue to be important markers in the stories we tell ourselves about the past. Informed by an exploration into both the desire to imagine different worlds and the strategies for achieving them, this installation seeks to uncover and reinterpret motives for operating outside of the status quo or pursuing an off-the-grid lifestyle.

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