

The eyes upon the street

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“...a well-used city street is apt to be a safe street... **there must be eyes upon the street**, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street. The buildings on a street equipped to handle strangers must be oriented to the street. They cannot turn their backs or blank sides on it or to leave it blind. And, the sidewalk must have users on it fairly continuously, both to add to the number of effective eyes on the street and to induce people in buildings along the street to watch the sidewalk in sufficient numbers...”

From Jane Jacobs (1916 – 2006), *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Random House, 1961

Greenwich village



<http://freelargephotos.com>



http://www.pps.org/info/newsletter/november2004/november2004_ten

<http://blog.pasteljournal.com/default,month,2007-08.aspx>

Renovation in the Lower East Side



http://testofwill.blogspot.com/2007_03_01_archive.html

Le Corbusier's new street



When Jane Jacobs proved to be right



<http://www.aliciapatterson.org/APF0801/Cohn/Cohn01.jpg>

Pruitt-Igoe, 1972

Social relations have changed a great deal since Jane Jacobs published her book (1961). At that time, in New York, neighborhood life was still intense and people usually knew their neighbors.

Today, the anonymity of the streets has intensified and, even in the busiest, there is no longer any guarantee that people will help if anything happens. Often, people don't want to get involved in, they "pass by on the other side".

When nobody wants to get involved



楚天金报2006-06-24

见义勇为遭残忍报复河南姑娘血洒江城街头

因为阻止小偷行窃，来武汉旅游的河南姑娘冯娜被一外地小偷按倒在地，刺伤了双手。事发前晚江汉路街头。冯娜说，小偷残害她的过程持续了近五分钟，如果有一个人能挺身而出，她不会被小偷伤到如此地步。

Chutian Metropolis Daily 2006-06-24

A Henan girl was stabbed in revenge for her brave behavior

A Henan girl was stabbed in revenge for her brave behavior Feng Na, a tourist from Henan was stabbed in her hands for she tried to stop a pickpocket from Xinjiang in Jiangnan Road. Feng Na said, the violence lasted for five minutes but nobody stepped forward.

李郁、刘波

狗年十三个月

彩色照片

150 x 120 cm

2006-2007

Li Yu & Liu Bo

13 Months in the Year of Dog

photography

150 x 120 cm

2006-2007

The new eyes upon the street

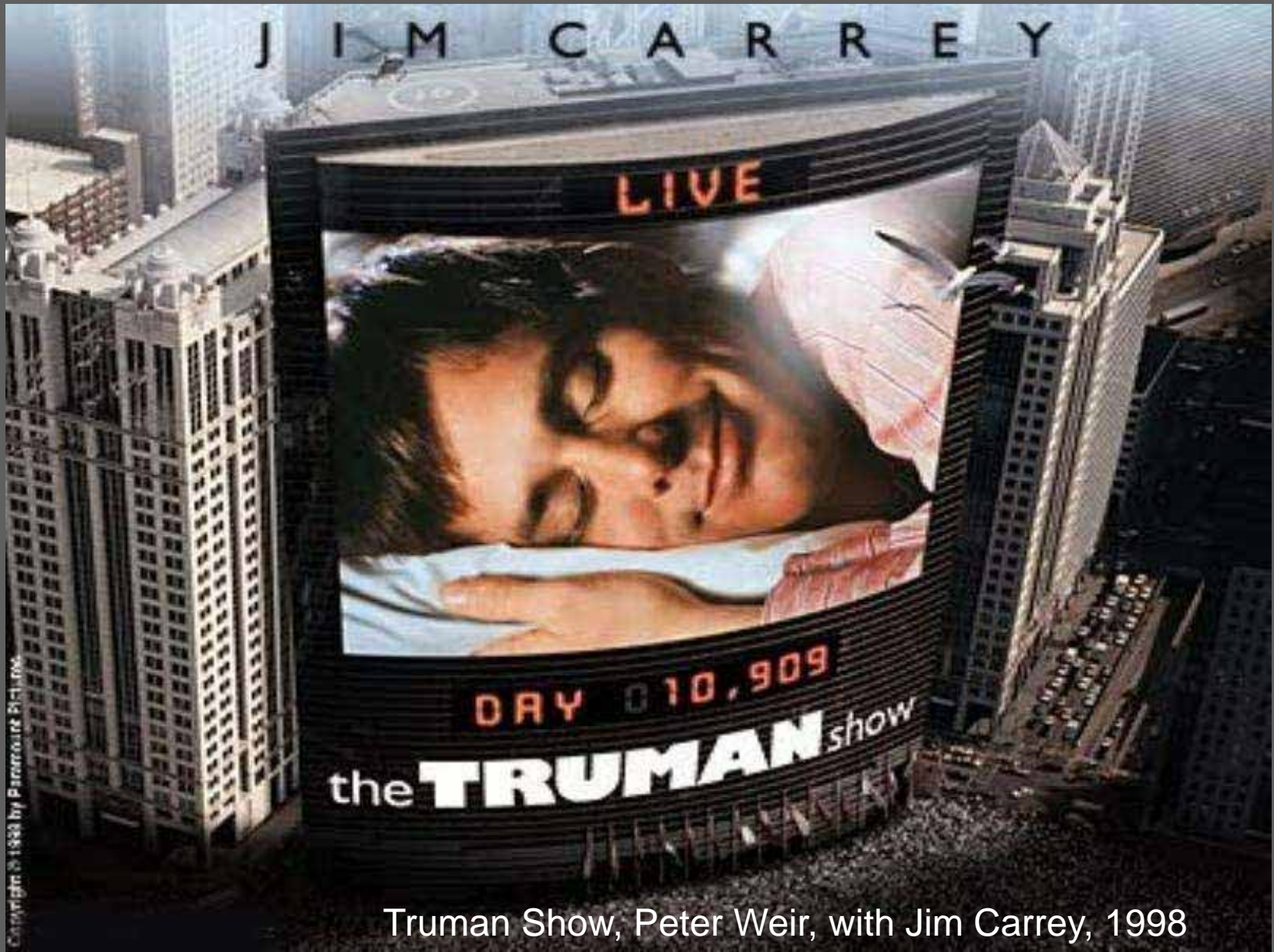


Contra

Gildas Raffenel, WostokPress, Maxppp



Always under the eye of the camera?



Truman Show, Peter Weir, with Jim Carrey, 1998

Pro

« I have no doubt we will hear some protest about a threat to civil liberties. Well I have no sympathy what-so-ever for so-called liberties of that kind »

John Major, when UK prime Minister, Independent, 27 february, 1994



Communication campaign in Cannes, France (Régis Hertzfeld)

**1. PEDESTRIAN IS SPOTTED
LEAVING CAN ON BENCH**



**2. TALKING CAMERA: 'PLEASE
FETCH YOUR CAN.'**



**3. TALKING CAMERA: 'THE BIN IS
BEHIND THE PHONE BOX.'**



**4. TALKING CAMERA: 'THANK YOU
FOR USING THE BIN.'**



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/6524495.stm>

Social control of public spaces always existed.

It only takes new forms, more “technologised”



Control is often limited



http://www.spyworld-actu.com/IMG/jpg_h_4_ill_830407_edimbourg.jpg.

Distinguishing the ends and the means

In commercial streets, the installation of a CCTV network often implies the rejection of a large population of “undesirables” such as the homeless, beggars, groups of teenagers and street sellers. The cameras quickly spot these people and security guards or police are dispatched to harass them until they move on.

Are those streets still public spaces or did they turn like a private shopping center ?

Watch the watchers

