

# THE VICTORY BOX



*An immersive parafictional installation about surveillance,  
synthetic evidence, and the systems that manufacture trust.*

# How does authority become part of ordinary life?

The Victory Box is an immersive parafictional installation that reconstructs a fictional Cold War domestic surveillance program through a hand-built electronic object, an AI-generated documentary, a synthetic archive, a furnished living room, and an interactive monitoring system.

Visitors move from institutional belief to personal implication. Documentary and archival forms establish a coherent history around an object that never existed. In the monitoring area, live and recorded gallery footage is composited into an AI-generated security film, turning the visitor from audience into subject.

## ARTIST

James Malzahn

## YEAR

2026

## DIMENSIONS

Variable

## PREMIERE

University of Waterloo Art Gallery

## MEDIUM

Installation, AI video, electronics, code, cameras, sound, furniture, fabricated archive

## AVAILABILITY

Full and adapted touring configurations



THE VICTORY BOX | CUSTOM-BUILT ELECTRONIC SCULPTURE | 2025-26 | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE

# The viewer moves from witness to evidence.

- I** *Inside Report: The Victory Box* A 20-minute AI-generated investigative documentary establishes the fictional history through the visual language of 1990s public
- II** *The Synthetic Archive* Advertisements, government records, photographs, manuals, and technical documents give the invented program institutional depth.
- III** *A Guardian in the Living Room* A furnished domestic set makes the device feel ordinary, comfortable, and socially desirable.
- IV** *The Monitoring Room* Live and recorded visitors appear on monitors watched by synthetic security agents.
- V** *The Interruption* A concealed spoken trigger interrupts the system and discloses the history as fabricated while identifying its tactics and technologies as real.



INSIDE REPORT: THE VICTORY BOX | INSTALLATION VIEW | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE  
PROJECT DOSSIER | JAMESMALZAHN.COM



THE SYNTHETIC ARCHIVE | INSTALLATION VIEW | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE

# The historical image is not closed. It is watching the present.



## DOMESTIC CAPTURE

A camera embedded in the Victory Box records short clips while the visitor occupies the living-room set. The familiar domestic scene becomes a site of data collection.



THE MONITORING ROOM | AI VIDEO + LIVE BROWSER COMPOSITING | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE



MODIFIED PROJECTION APPARATUS | LOCAL OFFLINE SYSTEM | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE

# Available for presentation

The installation can be adapted for a dedicated gallery, media-art venue, university gallery, festival, or museum while preserving the progression from institutional belief to personal implication.

## FULL CONFIGURATION

### Immersive installation

Documentary, framed synthetic archive, furnished domestic interior, functional Victory Box, interactive Monitoring Room, and triggered disclosure.

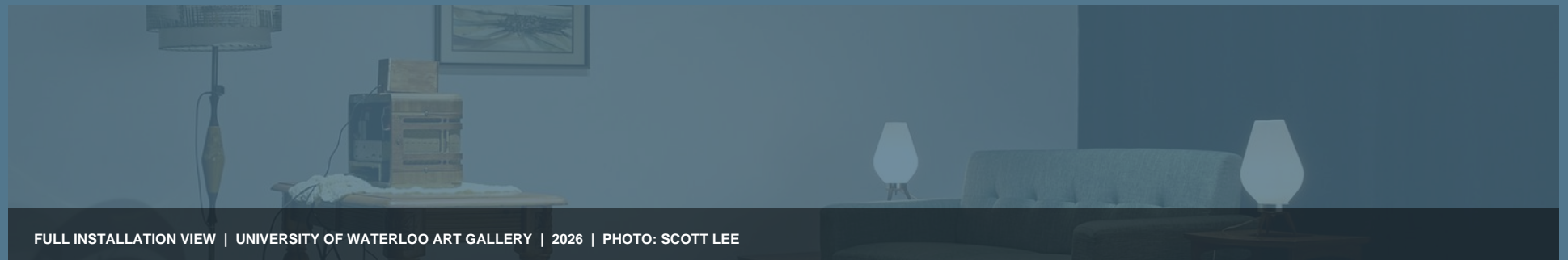
- Variable footprint with separate light and sound environments
- Monitor, projection, custom electronics, cameras, computer, and audio
- Period furniture and venue-specific theatrical installation
- Visitor disclosure and privacy protocol

## ADAPTED CONFIGURATION

### Compact presentation

A reduced presentation centred on the Victory Box, documentary, selected archival works, and a compact monitoring intervention.

- Scalable to a single gallery or screening space
- Modular archive and projection components
- Reduced equipment and furniture footprint
- Can accompany an artist talk, workshop, or public program



FULL INSTALLATION VIEW | UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ART GALLERY | 2026 | PHOTO: SCOTT LEE

# *The Victory Box*

MFA Thesis Exhibition  
University of Waterloo Art Gallery  
Gallery One: MFA 2  
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
May 14-30, 2026

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

James Malzahn is an interdisciplinary artist and technologist working across installation, moving image, traditional media, custom-built electronics, code, and AI-driven systems. His practice examines surveillance, propaganda, belief, and the dual capacity of contemporary technology to empower and endanger human society.

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## SELECTED LINKS

Official exhibition page

<https://uwag.uwaterloo.ca/exhibition/the-victory-box/>

MFA thesis - Instruments of Belief: The Victory Box

<https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/bitstreams/11c44d3f-906f-40a0-83c6-dff4f804de08/download>

Artist website

<https://jamesmalzahn.com/>

*"The installation does not ask whether an image is real. It asks what makes an image believable."*

## EXHIBITION AND ARTIST-TALK INQUIRIES

[jamesmalzahn@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmalzahn@gmail.com)

Book an artist talk