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Restart/Reborn

For the past two and a half years the Los Angeles–based media lab C-level has been developing increasingly complex and culturally provocative works out of their Chinatown space. This fall, C-level ventures to New York for the premiere of *Waco Resurrection* at The Kitchen from October 15-25.

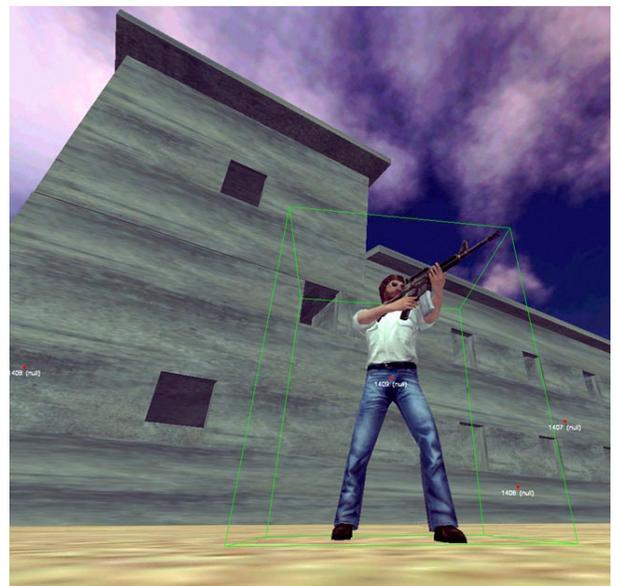
“We’ve combined a state-of-the-art 3D computer game with an experimental performative installation environment,” the group writes *Filmmaker* in an email. “Our previous projects, *Tekken Torture Tournament* and *Cockfight Arena* “ – also being produce in October at The Kitchen – “were intensive investigations into the physical nature of gaming. We were interested in pushing gaming to the point of becoming a dramatic public event - as compelling to watch as it was to play. With *Waco* we’re still creating a theatrical experience for the non-playing audience – players wear headgear/masks, while video projections and live amplified sound fill the space.”

Waco Resurrection is the first in a planned series of EndGames, “a new game series based on alternative utopias and apocalyptic moments,” according to the group. “*Endgames* attempts to incorporate elements of subjective documentary and experimental fantasy with experimental technologies to create a visceral gaming experience focused on extreme psycho-social phenomena.”

And why *Waco*? “The apocalyptic rhetoric and militaristic posture of the Bush administration finds a striking mirror in the Branch Davidian episode,” comments the group. “Although the exact date was never specified, the tenth anniversary of the siege finds us in a unique cultural moment: nationalistic sentiment and holy war are official administration policy; the current attorney general, unlike his predecessor, ascribes to a fundamentalism very similar to that of Koresh; and the constitutional transgressions of the FBI/ATF have become law under the PATRIOT Act.”

For more information, contact C-level at www.c-level.cc and The Kitchen at www.thekitchen.org

–S.M.



A scene from *Waco Resurrection*.