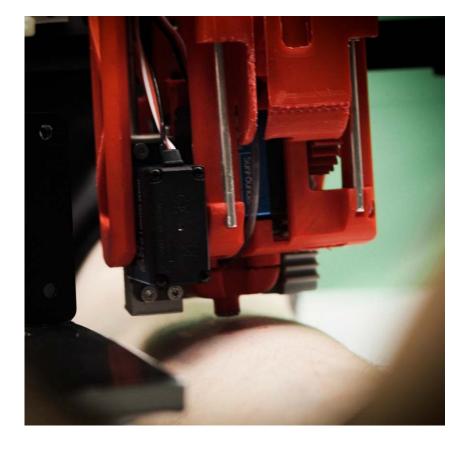


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COVER PAGE:

The Easy Asylum Booth appears in a Prison; Easy Asylum Booth Bundu Edition, (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown coillective in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2022 high resolution render from virtual environment, 2023

ABOVE:

The First Human Subject: Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown coillective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); video still (cropped from 4K original rushes); 2022

Introduction to Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition':

Supercharger-blown collective offers Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition', a satirical and situation specific presentation which interrogates European asylum policies, (and attitudes to immigration as a whole), by inverting hegemonic narratives. The collective uses provocative spectacle as a vehicle to facilitate social engagement, partying, shisha smoking, music and political dialogue.

Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' is another chapter in the shifting, magical-real vision derived from the fictitious nation of Botrovia. The booth is a 'pop up embassy' offering instant refugee status to anyone seeking asylum in Botrovia. Applicants just need to demonstrate their loyalty by offering 7 x 7cm of their skin for a tattoo specially chosen for them by Skin of our Skin (SooS®), the Botrovian Ministry of

Immigration and executed by a flying robotic tattoo gun. This gesture playfully references the surreal demonstrations of loyalty Hefaz al-Assad demanded of his soldiers in the 1970s, reimagining such tests within the context of a modern asylum application process.

Benefits to refugee status in Botrovia include a direct telephone connection with the Botrovian Leader (*Our Leader is Available*); *DASHTT (Drone Asylum Seeker Herding Techniques Training)*' a fully featured computer game; a lifetime subscription to *Botrovian Seeker (Your Guide to Asylum Success)* plus access to numerous helpful and supportive infographics, interviews and seminars.

See a trailer for *Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition'* at https://player.vimeo.com/video/820066805

ABOUT THE CREATIVE OUTCOMES:

Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' is a site and situation specific project. It is modular and never intended to manifest the same way twice. A custom presentation can be curated for both indoor or outdoor circumstances. The presentation can include the Flying Robotic Tattoo Gun actually flying and actually tattooing, (where the environment allows). A lot of work has been invested in making the process safe. (See the Risk Assessment on page 49). The spirit of the project can equally be expressed by showing static presentations, socially engaged events with the Supercharger team, video,

2D wall graphics, VR, and the fully interactive computer game. Like the magical realism from which this project is derived it moves fluidly between 'meatspace' and 'virtual space'.

Any manifestation of *Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition'* will always have both performance/installation and socially engaged aspects.

Over the following pages the individual modules of the project will be outlined along with three different possible combinations of those elements (Setup A, B and C) tailored for different environments.

FOLLOWING PAGE:

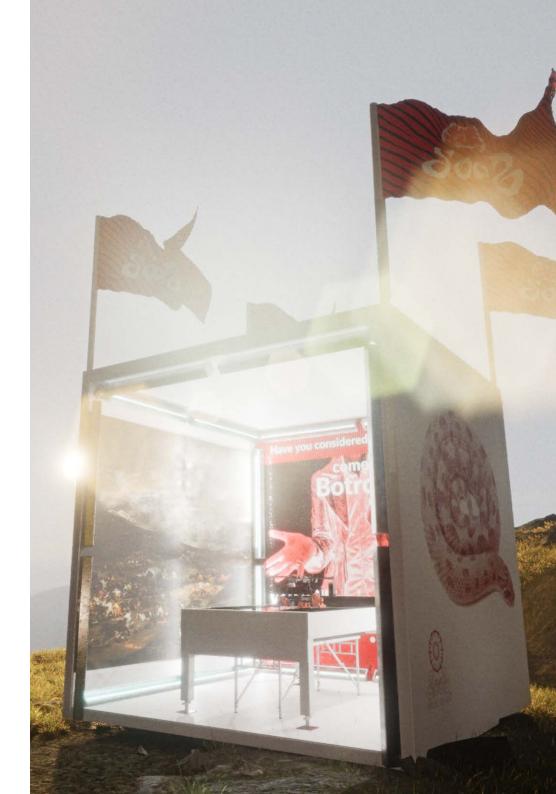
Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739,5y, (T-SRTGSSSP739,5y) Health and Safety Poster; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown coillective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2021

1. THE EASY ASYLUM BOOTH:

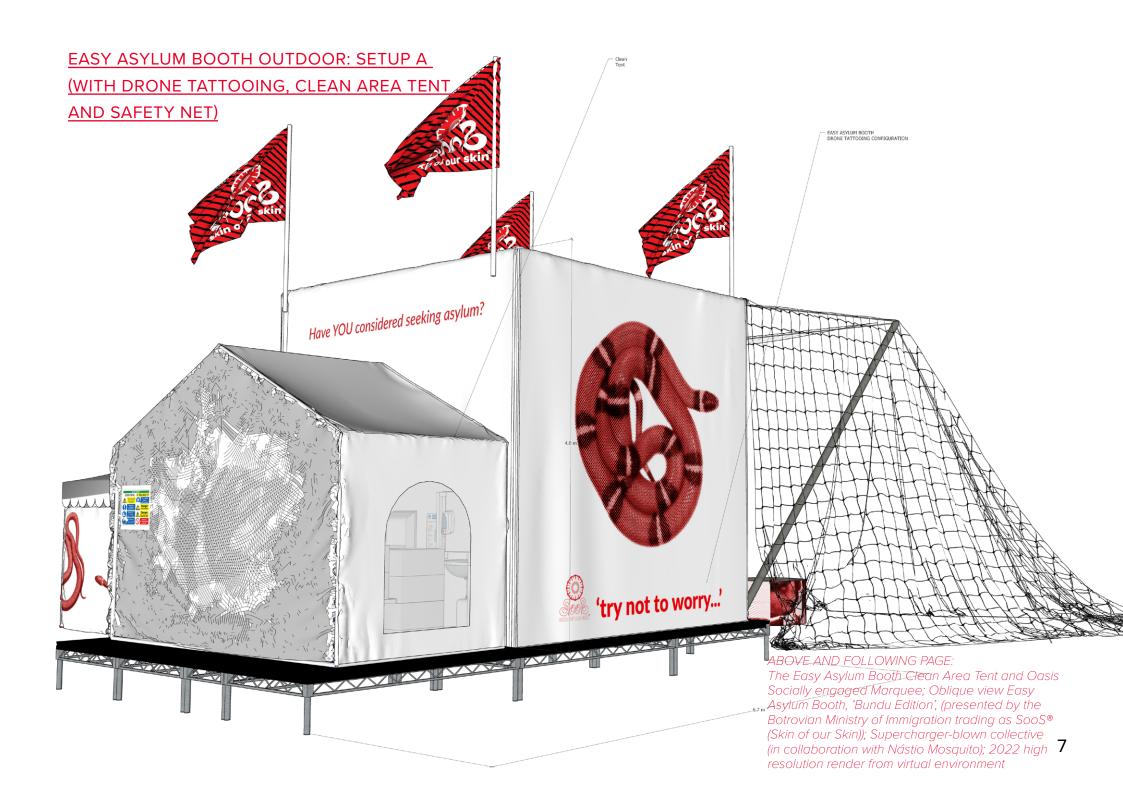
The *Easy Asylum Booth* itself is a pop up embassy, an aluminium framed cube, skinned with tarpaulin, open at one end and brightly lit on the inside. It is covered in Skin of our Skin (SooS®) The Botrovian Ministry of Immigration advertising material and infographics. Inside the Booth is a specially constructed Drone Landing Table with a reinforced glass top. The applicant lies under the glass awaiting The Flying Robotic Tattoo Gun to land and gift them a small tattoo. A Drone Safety Net can be connected to the front of the booth, and at the back of the booth a tattoo safe clean area/tent/vehicle will be attached where tattoo related preparations occur. The Booth itself will be a tattoo clean zone and so will have limited access. An alternative configuration is available where rather than tattooing the **DASHTT** computer game is played. Over the following pages various possible outdoor and indoor presentations are visualised. Being a situation specific project actual manifestations will vary as the project adapts to individual contextual challenges.

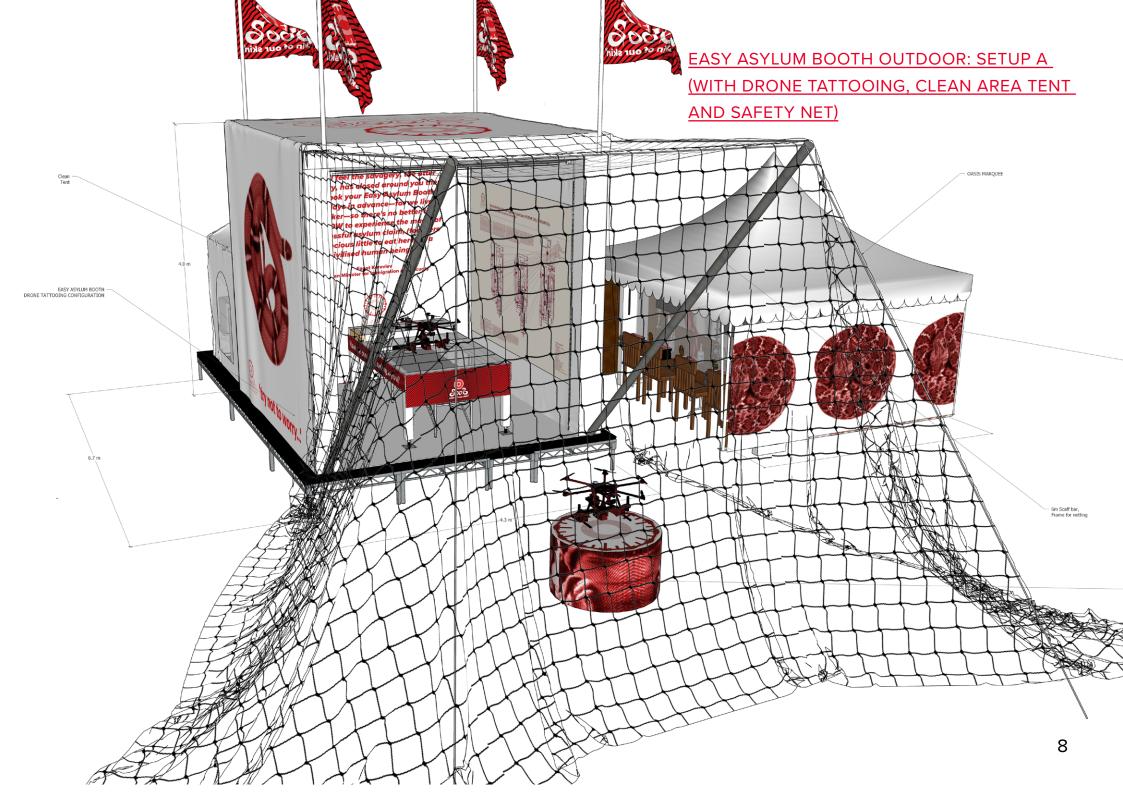
OPPOSITE:

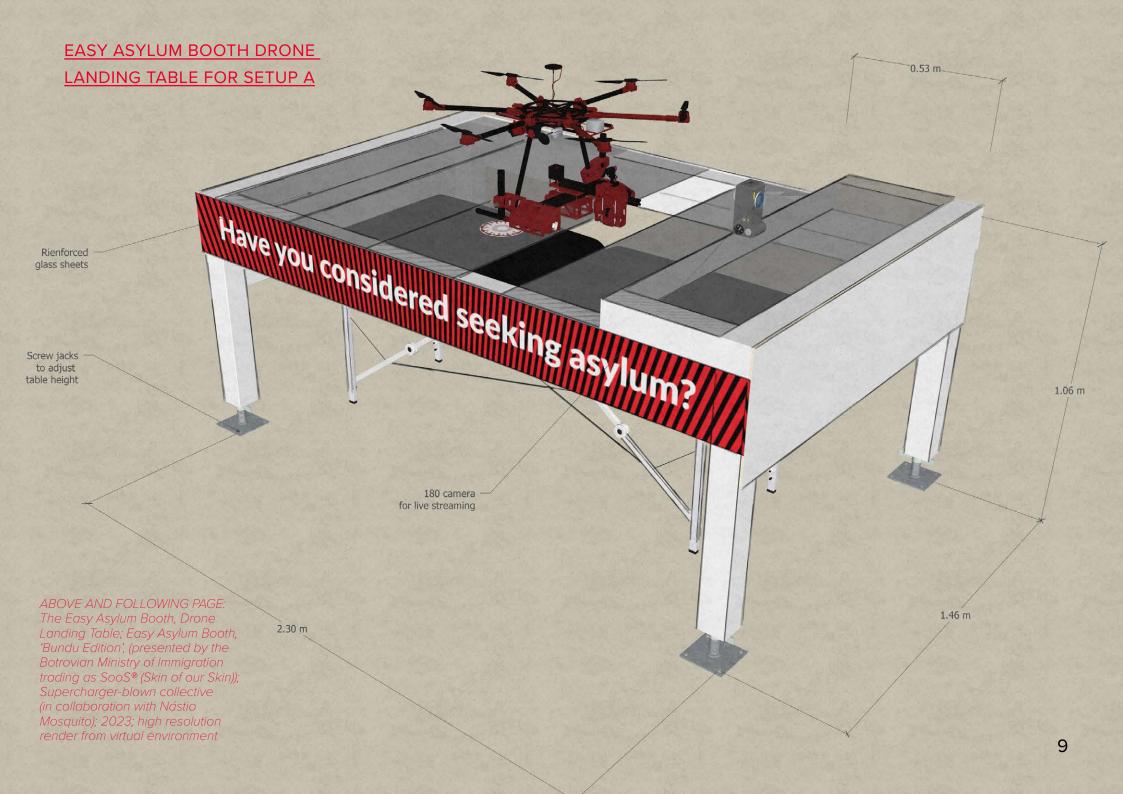
The Easy Asylum Both appears on a hill above Mountain Ash; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown coillective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2022 high resolution render from virtual environment. 2022





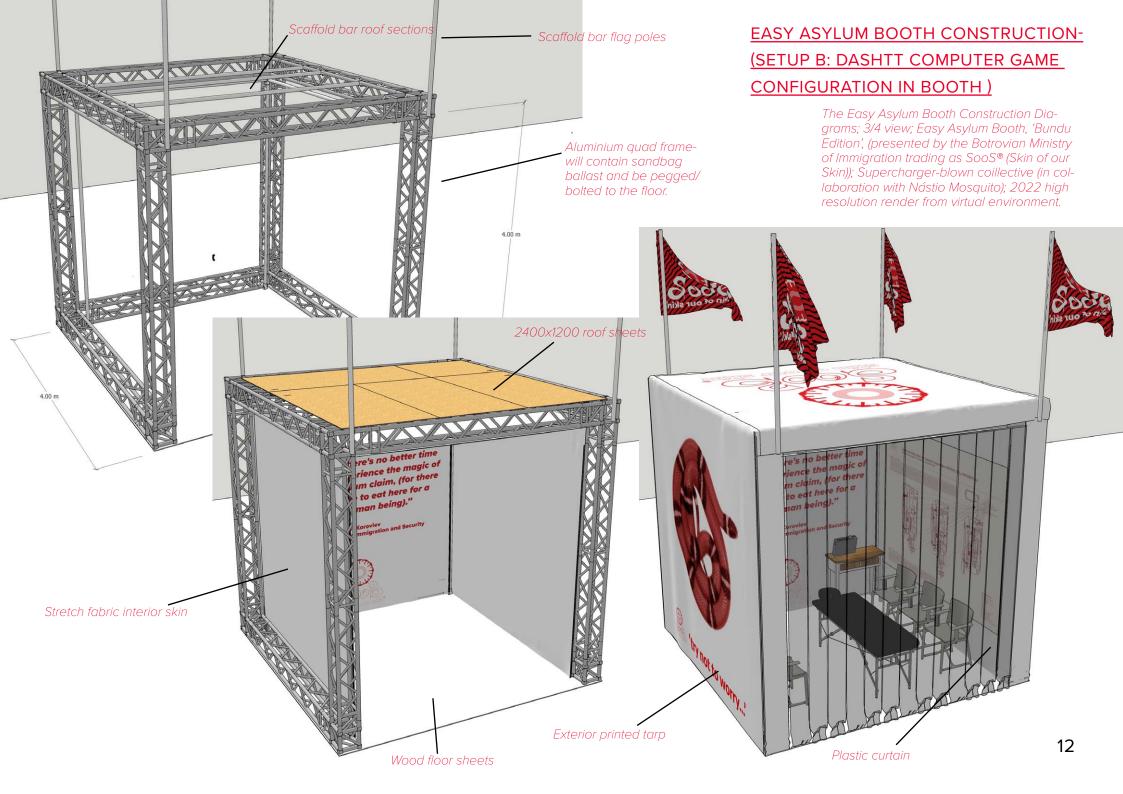






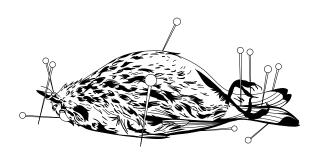








2. THE TATTOO DESIGNS:



Award winning artist Nerea
Martinez de Lecea will spend
time listening to individual
refugee stories and respond
to them with single drawings
which will become small tattoos.
The works are not an attempt at
represention, they are instead
creative gestures of solidarity.

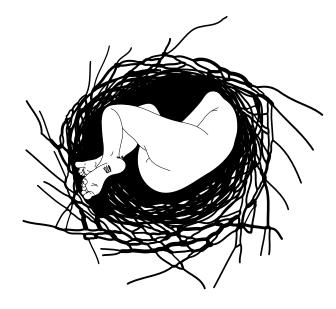
The drawings on this A4 page are examples of her style and are similar in size to the final tattoos.

Drawings taken from the 1000 Days series; Nerea Martinez de Lecea; 2019; digitally originated vector drawings; size variable

PREVIOUS PAGE:

Easy Asylum Booth envisioned as a modestly sized exhibition; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2023; high resolution render from virtual environment









3. FLYING ROBOTIC TATTOO GUN:

The Flying Robotic Tattoo Gun consists of a large hexacopter drone with an XY plotter attached to it (controlled by an Arduino computer). A specially developed Tattoo Gun Suspension System supporting a small rotary tattoo gun moves back and forth along the arm of the XY plotter.

The individual tattoo designs, (which are carried in the Arduino as gcode), are chosen randomly and then deleted from memory once they have been done.

The system which took Persian roboticist Amir Karimi and Supercharger-blown collective 18 months to develop and is now in its 50th iteration is made with a mixture of off the shelf machine

parts with 3D printed elements.

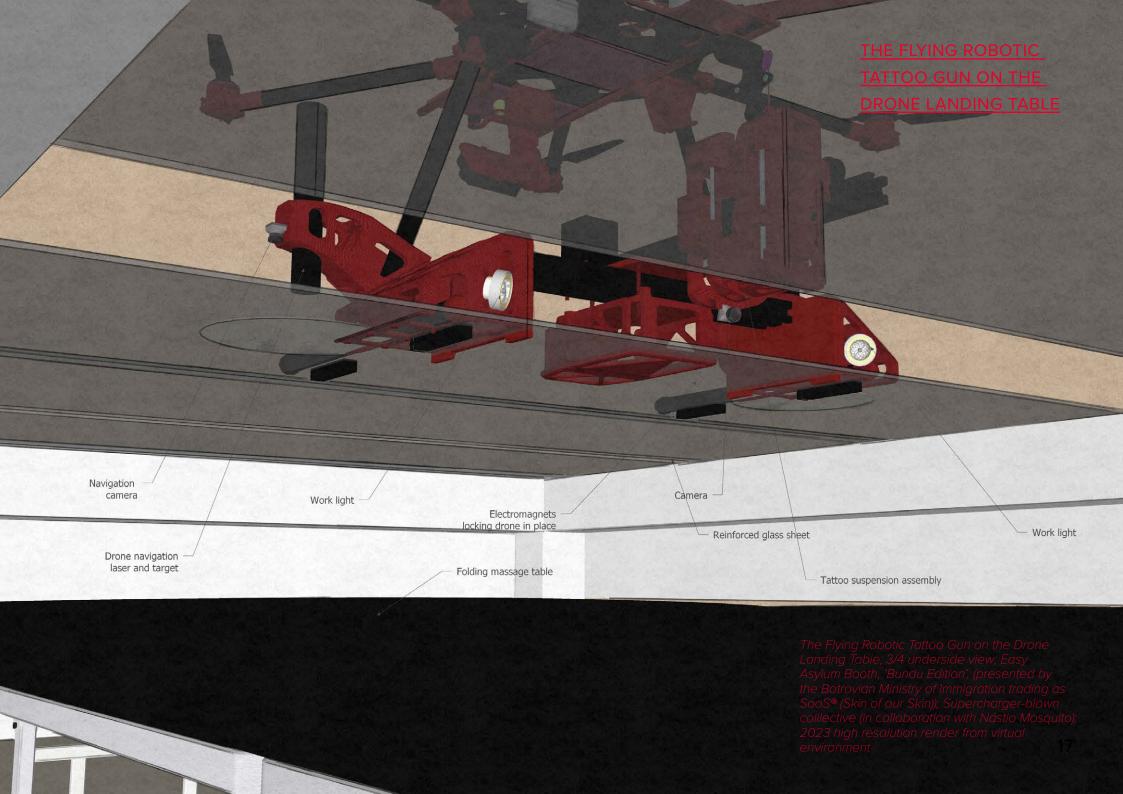
The machine lands on the *Drone*Landing Table and is locked in
place with electromagnets before
tattooing. The tattooing process
and the flying of the drone are
controlled by a remote operator
guided by numerous live camera
feeds.

The tattoos themselves can best be described as small and very precise, consisting of numerous very fine lines. Each tattoo takes around 20 minutes to complete.

FOLLOWING PAGE:

Easy Asylum Booth Campaign Media 972B featuring Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739,5y, (T-SRTGSSSP739,5y) Health and Safety Poster; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2023





4. OASIS SOCIALLY ENGAGED SPACE

The refugee and asylum seeker charity Oasis Cardiff is supporting and involved in Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' two reasons: Firstly, the project satirically engages with current asylum issues offering numerous avenues, for the charity, to engage in dialogue with new audiences. Secondly, many (but not all) of the project participants and/ or collaborators are, or have lived experience of the asylum systems in European countries. The project offers people, who are in a state of almost constant anxiety, a fun activity to get involved in whilst also being a facilitator for effective integration through cultural engagement.

Supercharger-blown collective want to be partnered with, (and

accountable to), Oasis to ensures the up-to-date working practices of the charity are implemented throughout the project for the protection of everyone involved. (This is covered in greater detail in the Risk Assessment).

Where possible Oasis Cardiff would co-curate, with Supercharger-blown collective, the Oasis Socially Engaged Space alongside the main Easy Asylum Booth experience.

The core of this space will be built around a seated area where the audience has the opportunity to rest and chat with the Easy Asylum Booth team. The logistics and scale of the space can be adapted to suit the environment.

The curation of the space will be steered by the range of

cultures who are engaged with Oasis and are participating in the project at the time. Currently they will include Mahnaz Baoosh who will be talking about her photographic project Ablutions which, among other things, addresses survivor guilt. Arash Javadi will introduce an evening of Persian poetry and music and Anwar Alahmad Almohamad will lead a conversation around politics from a Syrian perspective. (Anwar is currently studying International Relations at Cardiff University).

Oasis Socially Engaged Space will also be where the Botrovian equivalent of the UK Home Office Interview takes place.

5. OUR LEADER IS AVAILABLE

Two of the longest serving members of Supercharger-blown collective: Dheyaa Najm Abed Al Ameeri and Anwar Alahmad Almohamad, are developing Our Leader is Available, a project derived from Dheyaa's own experiences in Iraq in the 1980s and 90s. Dheyaa recalls how Saddam Hussein's personal phone number was commonly available in Baghdad for Iragi people to ring at any time. This PR stunt/urban myth created by Saddam presented him, to his people, as a Bedouin tribal head, more the father of a family than a remote national leader. Dheyaa and Anwar reimagine this scenario within the context of any asylum seeker to Botrovia being able to pick up a special phone and speak to the Botrovian Leader. The Botrovian Leader (embodied by Dheyaa) and his advisor (by Anwar) will blend absurdist realities of the Leader's constant distracted state with incisive and playful political provocation. The project satirises the grinding isolation and constant uncertainty faced by those currently seeking asylum in the UK, something many of our team have lived experience of.

FOLLOWING PAGE:

The SooS® Interview Area in The Oasis Socially Engaged Space; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2022 high resolution render from virtual environment









THIS PAGE:

Various social media image posts for Oasis Cardiff; copyright Oasis Cardiff; image credits unknown.

FOLLOWING PAGE: The Oasis Socially Engaged Space; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2022 high resolution render from virtual environment



6. SOOS® ADVERTISING AND INFOGRAPHICS:

The SooS® Asylum Message is communicated to the audience with large scale advertising posters and infographics. These visual prompts and provocations are woven into the whole Easy Asylum Booth experience.

FOLLOWING PAGE:

Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739,5y, (T-SRTGSSSP739,5y) Health and Safety Poster; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as Soos® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger — blown collective; (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2021

TWO PAGES HENCE:

Easy Asylum Booth Campaign Media 277J featuring 'Help is on its Way', The Triple Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739.5y, (TSRTGSSSP739.5y) Re-Envisioned as an Airship Emerging from the Fog; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2023; with much thanks to and respect for the Master:Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes



Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739.5y, (T-SRTGSSSP739.5y)

Side Aspect; (semi-prolapsed, fully prolapsed and unprolapsed views)

MSDD18 Li-2 Safety information-

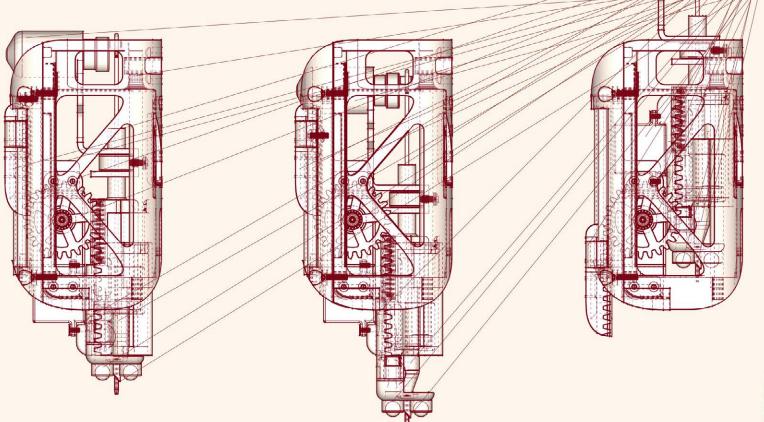
INSIGNATION TO CONTRICT AND CON

not tum it on and off. Any robotic totion gum that cannot be controlled with the waiter is disagra-uous and must be required. Disconnect the plate from the gover assure, and/or ennouve the bullet produced by the produced of the plate of t

tion more interest rouss we start an artistance station of the displace of the help. Liquid ejected from the battery may cause irritation or burns

- Work light
 Keyless chuck
 Torque adjustment ring
- 4. Two-speed gear control
- Forward/Reverse rotation control switch
 ON/OFF switch with variable speed
- 7 Handle 8. Battery pack

- 9. Release button
 10. Power / charging status indicator light
 11. Charging base



MSDD18-Li-2 Safety information continued.

MSUL15-LI-2 Safety Information Continued.

The of the a latticy was or white these part in disruptive resulted Disruptive or robots. It lattices part modified lattices may collable uspecificable behaviors resulting in fire, confusion or rots of impige. Do not posse a better post or robots through our five or excessive temperature. For our temperature above 130 °C may come explosions of the fired and changing inductions and do not design be beltery pack or robots. Bitting our end-followed changing includes and not one design of the control o

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Technical Specifications:

Rated voltage: 18 V d.c. Rated no load speed n0: 0-400/0-1450/min Max torque:30Nm Chuck capacity: ø 10mm lattooing capacity: skin ø 25mm, bone ø 10mm Weight: approx. 1.4 kg Model no: MRATIS-Li Type: Li-lon Capacity: 1.5 Ah Capacity: 15 / 4f,
Weight approx. 0.4 kg
Rated Input: 220 - 240 V~, 50/60 Hz, 37 W
Rated output: 220 - 240 V., 1.5A
Sound pressure level 1,4 8.7 dB(A)
Sound power level 1,WA. 98 dB(A) Uncertainty KpA, KvVA: 3 dB(A) Impact robotic tattoo gun Into skin: 10.8 m/s2 Uncertainty K: 1.5 m/s2

The sound intensity level for the operator may exceed 80 dB



7. BOTROVIAN SEEKER NEWSPAPER:

Botrovian Seeker Newspaper will be available for the audience to pick up and take away at the Easy Asylum Booth both/either as a tabloid size multilingual newspaper printed on 55gsm recycled paper or via QR code to a digital version hosted on ISSUU. The paper will allow the narratives surrounding the project, both real and fictitious, to be further expanded.

The newspaper is a collectable part of the artwork, not disposable expositional material.

In the newspaper will be: interviews with real asylum seekers; information about, the refugee and asylum seeker charity Oasis Cardiff; playful expansions on the *Easy Asylum Booth* theme (with plenty of 'helpful' infographics of course).

OPPOSITE:

Botrovian Seeker magazine cover mock-up (detail); Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2022



ABLUTIONS: MAHNAZ BAOOSH

Mahnaz Baoosh, who is a member of Superchargerblown collective, developed a body of work in response to the current situation in Iran. The work will be presented in the *Botrovian Seeker Newspaper* and/or as large format prints:

Iran has been gripped by protests since the death in custody of a 22-year-old Iranian of Kurdish origin who had been arrested for allegedly breaching the Islamic dress code for women. Fuelled by public outrage, the protest has continued to grow leading to a vicious crackdown from the regime in which many have been imprisoned, tortured, raped and killed.

Ablutions is a project made in collaboration with my community of Persians sisters living in the UK. We, as part of the Iranian diaspora, feel a shared pain with our relatives in Iran. In this project, I chose to employ a quiet and feminine vernacular in which I take the intimate and private ritual of washing and universalise it. The Iranian women I focus on are choosing to show parts of the body in public that are censored by the regime; in itself a small act of rebellion.



8. PERFORMATIVE ELEMENTS:

The Botrovian universe contains certain characters, including *A L Moore* the elected President (Nástio Mosquito), Anwar Alahmad Almohamad who is the *Minster for Karama (dignity)* and *Fagot Koroviev the Minister for Immigration and Security* (Ric Bower), who often express their particular pespective through monologues and dialogues. These expressions appear as audio, video or printed interjections. Korviev's thoughts in relation to *The Easy Asylum Booth* initiative primarily consist of direct quotes from Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* melded with the language found in advertising materials for Disney-style theme parks.

Supercharger-blown collective will be spawning a new character for Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' This character will conduct the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin) Asylum Seeker Interview in the Oasis Socially Engaged Space. The performance will be filmed live and may then be repeated as a video interview for future iterations of the project:

Fagot Speech Excerpt: Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); Poster made from audio monologue; size variable; 2023

"If you feel the savagery, the utter savagery, has closed around you then pre-book your Easy Asylum Booth visit 5 days in advance—for we live in the flicker—so there's no better time than NOW to experience the magic of a successful asylum claim, for there is precious little to eat here for a civilised human being."

Fagot Koroviev

Botrovian Minister for Immigration and Security



8. DASHTT

DASHTT (Drone Asylum Seeker Herding Technique Training) is a computer game within the Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' universe. It is a training simulator for Flying Robotic Tattoo Gun pilots; rather than tattooing though, in this instance their job is to corral, organise and subdue asylum seekers attempting to enter Botrovia. The overall aim of the game is to herd the milling asylum seekers into their correct 'pens'. Along the way there are opportunities to score points through effective use of the drones onboard tasers.

DASHTT draws upon and satirises contemporary edicts from the UK Home Office including the policy that allows Ukrainian citizens £10,000 as part of

their resettlement package, a gesture not afforded to Afghan refugees. The audience will be taught to play *DASHTT* by members of the Easy Asylum Booth team, many of whom may have first hand experience of the UK asylum process. The game, which has been developed by Supercharger-blown collective team member Andre de Jong and will be playable on screens and/or by projection.

DASHTT will be part of the suite of tools and services Supercharger-blown collective, posing as SooS (Skin of our Skin) the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration, will attempt to sell to the British Home Office.

DASHTT; Easy Asylum Booth Bundu Edition, (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); high resolution render from virtual environment, 2023



10. Easy Asylum Booth 'The Movie'

Easy Asylum Booth 'The Movie' is a future project and will NOT form part of the 2024 version of Easy Asylum Booth but it is in development and footage of the 2024 iteration project will be shot and used in this future film. This footage will be combined with mise-en-scène adapted from Bulgakov's masterpiece The Master and Margarita.

The Reverse-Panopticon After Party; The Reverse-Panopticon, © Ric Bower, Nástio Mosquito, Kelly Schacht, Photo: Adam Robinson; 2019



COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Ric Bower is using the *nom de guerre*Supercharger- blown collective to encompass the Wales based creative practitioners, individuals and organisations he is collaborating with on an ongoing basis.

A small team of Persian, Arab and Afghan expats (domiciled in Cardiff) have been working with Bower for over five years. The project's sophisticated robotics have been developed in collaboration with the renowned Iranian roboticist Amir Karimi, Persian photographer Mana Baoosh will be presenting her photographic project Ablutions, made in response to the current popular uprising in Iran. The Syrian refugee and ITV on-screen journalist Issa Farfour and BAFTA winning composer John Rea are involved in the project; Issa will provide a documentary voice and John the soundscape within the booth. Eisteddfod winning artist Nerea Martinez de Lecea will be developing the tattoo designs in response to individual asylum seeker stories. Jon Ruddick will be curating collaborations

between musicians from different cultures for the project. He will also be working on elements of the video game soundtrack. Jon as the director of Shift Cardiff will be producing an iteration of *EAB* in Shift late in 2024.

Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition' is produced in partnership with Oasis Cardiff, the refugee and asylum-seeker charity. The development of the project has been supported by Arts Council of Wales and the arts charity Axisweb.

The filming and live-streaming of the process and presentations will be conducted with the assistance and support of Axisweb and Culture Colony.

The initial development of *Easy Asylum Booth* was supported by Arts Council Wales.

https://www.oasiscardiff.org/ https://shiftcardiff.org/ http://arts.wales http://axisweb.org http://culturecolony.org http://supercharger.work













FAQs:

Does the machine really fly and do real tattoos?

Yes.

How can it do a proper tattoo while flying?

It lands and is locked into place with electromagnets before tattooing.

Tattooing relies on the flexibility of the human hand, how can a machine replace the hand?

The machine produces very fine line work thanks to the suspension system which took 18 months to develop. It is not a replacement for the human hand, it produces a unique kind of tattoo; precise, small and delicate but with no fill work and in only one colour.

How big are the tattoos?

Around 3 inches square

Can the subject choose their tattoo?

No, the machine will carry a number of tattoos in its memory, each a response to an individual asylum story. It will choose at random which one to do upon landing and then delete it from its memory once it is done.

Can the subject choose where they have the tattoo on their body?

Yes, within reason. The chosen area needs to reasonably flat.

Is the process safe?

All tattooing carries with it a certain risk. The Risk Assesment section of this document outlines

FOLLOWING PAGE:

Easy Asylum Booth envisioned as a modestly sized exhibition; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2023; high resolution render from virtual environment

FAQS (CONT):

the risks, and how they are mitigated, in detail. Anyone taking part in the process will have been fully informed of the risks and asked to sign a waiver before taking part.

Surely tattooing outside is a bad thing?

We create a controlled indoor environment in which all the tattooing related activity occurs. The amount of skin broken is also far lower than with a regular tattoo further reducing risk.

Tattooing relys on dipping the tattoo gun in ink by hand, how can this work with a machine?

The ink is carried in a small replacable tank which releases ink onto the skin when the

tattooing starts.

How long does each tattoo take?

The tattoo itself will be done in about 20 minutes. The preparation of the subject and the equipment takes over an hour.

Will you be charging for the tattoos? And how many can be done in a day?

No charge will be levied for the tattoos. Six or seven can be done in a day currently, but this figure is likey to go up.

So what is the point of all this then?

To create dialogue. The project is designed to playfully create anxiety because this is the overarching mental state of

any real asylum seeker. It does this by creating an environment which the audience does not understand, one which operates according to principles with which they are not familiar.

And in so doing it inverts the power structures, with which we have become so comfortable, in the Northern hemisphere. In the context of this project it is the real refugees and asylum seekers who are in control.

Where and when does this dialogue happen then?

The most important part of the project is The Oasis Socially Engaged Area consisting of seating, tables, shisha, tea and snacks where people can talk to the 'real' asylum seekers

FAQS (CONT):

about their experiences being 'pretend' Botrovian asylum seekers. There will also be curated talks.

How will all this be communicated to the audience?

The newspaper Botrovian
Seeker will be distributed to the audience (printed on recycled paper and/or virtually via QR code link to ISSUU). It will playfully introduce the concepts surrounding the work and will include promotional material for the two charities supporting the work. It will also include interviews with real asylum seekers.

What happens if all the machines break and no tattooing is done?

It does not matter at all. The point of the project is to initiate dialogue, it is the idea of the tattooing that is important.

So how adaptable is the project?

Very, it is entirely modular.

Where is Botrovia?

Somewhere between the Black Sea and Platform 13 and 3/4 perhaps? It's hard to tell, but then this is magical realism so what else would you expect?

CONTEXT

Easy Asylum Booth- 'Bundu Edition' is a facet of Another Leader/ Transitory **Suppository**, a rolling artwork that was initiated for ArtesMundi 7 in 2016 by the Angolan artist Nástio Mosquito. Since its inception the project has manifested in a number of forms including **Another Leader / Transitory** Suppository: Act #I Security Research, Nástio Mosquito, Ric Bower, CCQ Magazine and Another Africa, (2016), The Reverse-Panopticon, a brief introduction to AEI (Aesthetically Enhanced Interrogation), Supercharger-blown collective, Nástio Mosquito & Kelly Schacht, Arcade/ Campfa (2019) and Moore's Bad & Better Mundi - at Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Nástio Mosquito (2019).

Recent collaborations between Bower and Mosquito include *Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' (2020-)*; *Influence (2021)*, a short film made for Spielart festival at the Gasteig (Munich) in November 2021 and *Aomame presents Doing Time*, an artist-themed meta environment designed specifically for the art world to host cultural content.



WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID:

'This exhibition [The Reverse-Panopticon] was genuinely confrontational. I have worked with refugees for the past ten years, and in that decade have seen many so-called community art projects aimed at the topic of seeking asylum... they tend to obsess over the experience of migration and travel; these projects purport to empathise, but the creative directors enter the project with fixed narratives about migration and, knowingly or not, they enjoy the power imbalance inherent in nationalism between the citizen and the non-citizen. This exhibition subverted the usual power balance we enjoy as an audience for art and as citizens. The raw, emotional punch came from its subversion of the UK Home Office interview.

I think this is what a collaborative effort really looks like, it was probably the first piece of art involving asylum seekers I have seen that wasn't condescending.'

Hugh Marwick, Asylum Case Worker for Migrant Legal Project

FOLLOWING PAGE:

The Reverse-Panopticon Drawing Class, installation view, The Reverse-Panopticon, © Ric Bower, Nástio Mosquito, Kelly Schacht, 2019, Fagot's coat: Tom Clulee; photo: Adam Robinson



WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID:

'Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' arises from Bower's long standing relationship with Cardiff's asylum seeker and refugee community. As such, it's been in the works for a while; nonetheless, the recent announcement of the project coincides with the UK's own international aid and immigration policies coming under increased scrutiny.'

'Bower's Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' upends the self-satisfied narrative which paints our island as a benevolent idyll for the world's most persecuted people. After all, and according to figures from the end of 2018, the UK was home to just 126,000 refugees – a drop in the ocean compared to, say, Turkey's 3.7 million. With that staggering gulf in mind, Bower's concept frames the UK in a troubling new light: as somewhere to flee from, rather than to.'

Emily Watkins for Why Now Magazine

https://whynow.co.uk/read/interviewing-one-man-twice-fuck-originality

ARTIST'S NOTE:

It took us the best part of four hours to get Mo to the Accident and Emergency department, three and a half of which were spent gently persuading him to get into the car because 'he would surely find help at hospital' we thought. It was clear to all present that Mo was deadly serious when he said he intended to kill himself. But we were, initially at least, unclear as to what to do about it. The police told us that they could not help him unless he 'committed a crime'; the mental health hotline pointed us to his GP or, failing that, to go to A&E with him. Since he was unlikely to do the former and he had tried the GP we settled on the latter.

Mo had not eaten or drunk for a considerable time. He looked like an inmate of a concentration camp; his skin was sallow and drawn across his bones. He showed the medical staff at the hospital a picture of the healthy Mo, keffiyeh wearing, full faced and beaming in front of his enormous 4x4 looking over the sands of Kuwait. The medical staff made no physical contact with Mo to ascertain his condition; they asked him a list of questions which, from his reactions, he did not fully understand and then they dismissed him. I drove him back to his house. We were all exhausted. He assured us he would be ok for the night so we went home. When we had left

the house he hung himself.

Over the following weeks
we found ourselves hosting
Mo's family from Kuwait
and explaining to them the
circumstances of his death...
because no one else had. After
the funeral we lodged a formal
complaint against the hospital
and represented the family in
the coroner's court in the hope
of challenging the inadequacy
of the current mental health
procedures to accommodate
different cultures.

We were left asking ourselves how we, as an artist collective, could respond to these events. Easy Asylum Booth 'Bundu Edition' is that response.

ABOUT:

SUPERCHARGER-BLOWN COLLECTIVE

Supercharger-blown collective is a group of artists, scientists and thinkers from a range of cultural backgrounds. Formed and led by the artist Ric Bower. Their knowingly complex, multi-disciplinary practice often assumes the appearance of an elaborate practical joke, Bower says of Supercharger—blown collective's approach: '...we do not want to make work that sits quietly, meekly waiting to be observed. We mean to make madness that follows you out of the gallery space, slithers into the back seat behind you and shanks you as you drive home.'

→ http://supercharger.work

NÁSTIO MOSQUITO

Nástio Mosquito is a multimedia, performance and spoken word artist. Often placing himself center stage in the work, Mosquito deploys mimicry to explore global and African politics. He typically assumes roles not insomuch that they reflect his own cherished beliefs, but rather as an artifice to express cunning observations on human follies manifesting in modern life.

→ http://nastiomosquito.com

ZEHRA JUMABHOY

Dr Zehra Jumabhoy is an art historian and curator specialising in modern & contemporary south asian art. She is interested in exploring and analysing socio-political contexts.

→ https://zehrajumabhoy.com



RISK ASSESSMENT:

PART A: DRONE RELATED RISK:

Nature of risk:

The drone and its cargo are over 250gsm and therefore capable of injuring onlookers and/or tattoo subjects if control is lost of the aircraft and safety measures not in place.

Severity of risk:

An out of control drone can cause significant injury to an individual, particularly lacerations from the revolving propellers.

Mitigating the risk:

- Appropriate Training and Certification: The aircraft will only be flown by a qualified and licensed plot. The pilot will have an A2 C of C certificate and an A2 GVC certificate.
- The Aircraft: The aircraft will be fully serviced and correctly maintained.
- **Physical Barriers**: the drone will fly within a netted arena. It will not be possible for the drone to fly through the net and cause injury. The audience will be kept a distance of two meters from the netted arena through the use of cordoning.
- The Tattoo Subject: The subject will lie within a table structure made from plywood and laminated safety glass. No part of the subject's body will be exposed to the drone whilst it is flying.

PART B: TATTOOING RELATED RISK:

Nature of Risk:

The risks in relation to tattooing fall into two primary categories: The risk of the tattoo becoming infected and secondly the risk of the tattoo needle damaging the skin.

Severity of risk:

The risk of infection is increased because of the festival environment and the risk of damaging the skin is increased because the tattoo is being done by a machine.

Mitigating the risk of infection:

- **Replaceable parts:** All parts of the tattoo apparatus, that come into contact with the subject, will be replaced after each use.
- Sterile packaging and autoclaving: All tattoo apparatus that comes into
 contact with the subject will have been autoclaved and appropriately
 packaged prior to use. This includes the tip of the tattoo machine, the needle
 cartridge, the ink container and connecting tube.
- Clean area: Skin preparation will be conducted on the subject in the Clean Tent, (see page 24 for diagram), prior to the tattoo being executed by staff who are qualified with the Professional Certificate Program 607 Tattoo and Body Art Safety Certificate.
- Clean area segregation: The Clean Tent, where the skin preparation is occurring, will be off limits to unauthorised personnel.

KEY:

- A: Fully suspended replaceable safety tattoo head
- B: Needle cartridge
- C: Secondary suspension ratchet
- D: 2mm ball bearings
- E: Needle cartridge aperture
- F: Servo
- G: Outer body
- H: Inner Shuttle
- I: Outer Shuttle

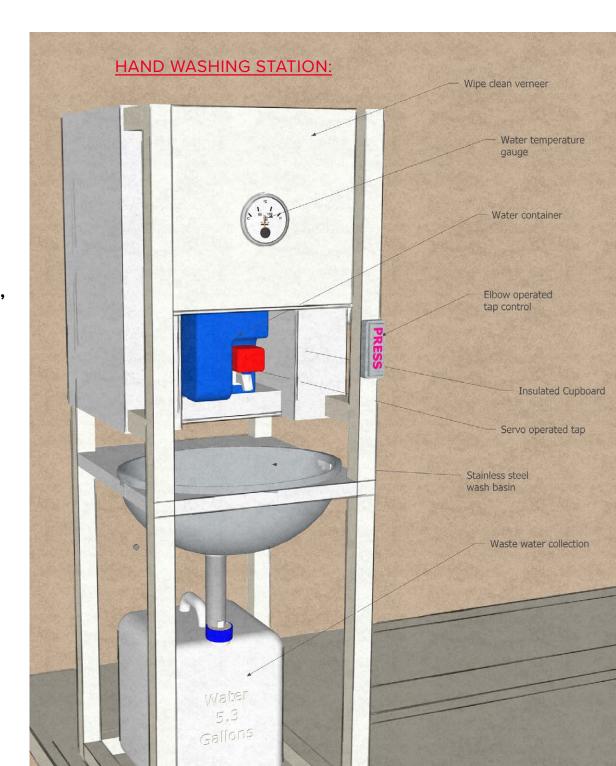
ABOVE:

Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System Tattoo Head, with replaceable sections coloured blue; Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2021

PART B: TATTOOING RELATED RISK (CONT):

Mitigating the risk of infection (cont):

- The Clean Tent/area, (see diagram on following page), will be directly connected to the tattoo booth so the subject does not have to come into contact with unsanitised environments once they have been prepared for tattooing.
- Distel, high level medical surface disinfectant, will be used to sanitise the tattoo environment and the skin prep area.
- Hand Washing Station: Push button controlled hot running water (from an immersion heated tank), paper towels, Hibiscrub soap and a hand washing sink will be installed in the Hand Washing Station (see right):
- Skin prep: Subject's skin will be prepared, as with any normal tattoo; this will include washing with Green Soap, shaving and wiping with 70% alcohol wipes.
- Dermalize Pro protective tattoo film will be used to cover the tattoo immediately, on its completion. (This film, originally developed for burns, allows the area to breathe while also making it waterproof and provides a physical barrier to prevent infection).





CLEAN TENT/ AREA CUTAWAY **DIAGRAM**:

KEY:

- A: Paper towel dispenser
- B: Hand washing poster
- C: Sharps container
- D: Alcohol gel
- E: Viewing window
- F: Hand washing station
- G: Storage boxes
- H: Hibiscrub soap
- I: Fire extinguisher
- J: Water containers
- K: Door leading into Booth
- L: Containers for shoe covers
- M; Pedal Bin
- N: Strip light
- O: Sanitised surface

PART B: TATTOOING RELATED RISK (CONT):

- Minimum skin area broken: The risk of infection increases in proportion to the amount of skin tattooed. The tattoos from Easy Asylum Booth will be small, a maximum of 3 inches square. More importantly we will be using very, very small needles (#8 gauge (0.25mm) round liners (0803RL)) minimising the area of skin broken.
- **Aftercare package:** Tattoo subjects will be equipped with a professional aftercare package including detailed instructions on how to look after their tattoo.
- Tattoo subjects will be given a phone number to ring if they are concerned in any
 way as to how their tattoo is looking.
- Checking of tattoo: Tattoo subjects will be invited to revisit the Easy Asylum Booth tattoo station at any time to have the tattoo checked, cleaned and redressed.
- **Needle assembly stowage:** Whilst flying, the needle and tattoo head assembly will be fully retracted within the body of the machine. (See diagram on page 31).
- Operators working in the Clean Tent and Tattoo Booth will wear protective coveralls, (see right), over their clothes and their shoes to ensure the inside of the Clean Tent and the Booth remains clean. They will also wear masks and nitrile gloves while in the Clean Tent and Tattoo areas.

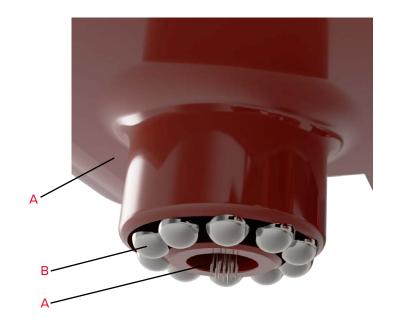


PART B: TATTOOING RELATED RISK (CONT):

Mitigating the risk of tattoo machine damaging skin:

- Qualified operator on hand: The tattoo will be conducted remotely BUT a qualified operator will be on hand, within two meters of the tattoo area, at all times.
- Good communication: The subject, being tattooed, will be in contact with the qualified operator by radio at all times.
- Emergency stop button: The tattoo subject will have an emergency button which will turn off the machine for if the subject experience undue discomfort or feels panicky.
- Viewing cameras: The tattoo head is surrounded by small cameras which broadcast live to the qualified operator, who will be watching to ensure the tattoo is conducted safely.
- Tattoo safety head: The tattoo needle is surrounded by a specially designed safety head which serves two purposes:
 - 1. It ensures the needle does not penetrate the skin further than the prescribed amount.
 - 2. It allows the tattoo head and needle cartridge assembly to flow smoothly across the skin surface.
- Tattoo head suspension: The needle cartridge is carried with a suspended shuttle assembly which gently and naturally moves up and down over the skin's undulations ensuring good contact is always maintained between skin and needle.

TATTOO SAFETY HEAD (3/4 DETAIL VIEW)



KEY:

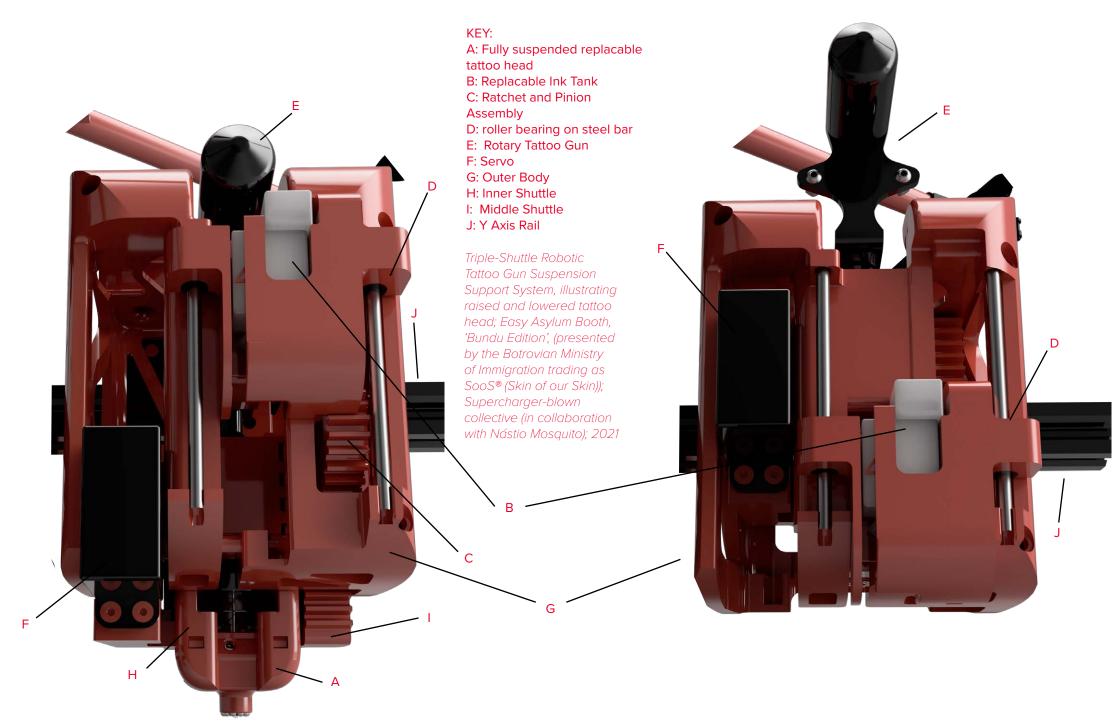
A: Fully suspended replaceable tattoo head (detail)

B: 2mm ball bearings

C: Needle cartridge aperture

ABOVE:

Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System Tattoo Safety Head, (detail enlarged for illustrative purposes); Easy Asylum Booth, 'Bundu Edition', (presented by the Botrovian Ministry of Immigration trading as SooS® (Skin of our Skin)); Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2021



PART C: PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING RISKS

Nature of Risk:

The project is designed specifically to induce anxiety. As such the psychological risks to the project participants can be split into two groups: Firstly the risk to the asylum seeker and refugee contingent who are often already having to process their own trauma. Secondly the risk to the audiences who could be made anxious by the project both because of it's provocative nature and through the real, and often disturbing, asylum stories they hear.

Severity of risk:

The severity of the risk is hard to gauge and would often be dependent on the pre-existing mental state of the audience member or project participant. It is possible that someone, who is already struggling, could find themselves triggered by the project and so the risk would have to be moderate to severe.

Mitigating the Risk of damage to Psychological and Mental Wellbeing:

- Team working: Easy Asylum Booth as a project and Supercharger as a collective of artists and
 practitioners are fully accountable to Oasis Cardiff, a charity dedicated to asylum and refugee
 issues. Easy Asylum Booth and Supercharger adhere to safeguarding, lone working and
 privacy policies of Oasis Cardiff.
- Counseling available: Refugees and Asylum Seekers who involve themselves in the project, either as volunteers or as freelance workers (depending on their status) will be offered counseling at Oasis Cardiff (through Mindsprings) if they require it after the event. From experience volunteers and freelance workers from these communities find an art project 'comic relief' compared with the harsh realities associated with their relocation and then integrating in the UK.

Mitigating the Risk of damage to Psychological and Mental Wellbeing (cont):

- **Relationship** is an important principle through which the project is conducted. This approach affords the refugee and asylum seeker communities the opportunity to both forge close relationships with team members and ensures no one, who is struggling, passes slips through the net.
- The team socials, which happen regularly, over the course of the project are another opportunity to keep an eye on people's mental health and to reinforce the sense of team.
- Talking: The project is heavily socially engaged in its aspirations and praxis. This means the
 area for talking and sharing stories is central to the project's modus operandi. This process of
 talking and sharing, we have found from experience, can be cathartic both for the refugee and
 asylum seeker and/or the audience member.
- Information will be given, both verbally and in the Easy Asylum Booth literature, on how to contact Oasis Cardiff for further advice and information.
- Devictimising the community: The refugee and asylum seekers volunteering and working
 with the project are not treated as victims. This is of the utmost importance. To treat talented
 individuals as victims is to dis-empower them and can be profoundly damaging to their mental
 health and wellbeing.
- Accountability: Easy Asylum Booth, as a project, is accountable to the well respected and long established refugee and asylum seeker charity Oasis Cardiff.

CONTACT

RIC BOWER

A: Chapter, Market Rd, Cardiff, CF5 1QE, UK

E: 1968@ricbower.work

T: +44 7971 789439

w: http://supercharger.work

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OPPOSITE

Triple-Shuttle Robotic Tattoo Gun Suspension Support System PROTOTYPE 739.5y, (T-SRTGSSSP739.5y) Side Aspect; (semi-prolapsed, fully prolapsed and unprolapsed views) Supercharger-blown collective (in collaboration with Nástio Mosquito); 2023









