

PHOSPHOR

FRANCIS GOMILA & BETTINA SEMMER
interventions in Tifariti Western Sahara

ARTIFARITI 09

PISS FOR PEACE - PIS POR LA PAZ - شيخ من أجل السلام



Phosphorus was discovered by the German Alchemist Hennig Brand in 1669 whilst distilling human urine in an attempt to produce gold. The distillation process led to a white fluorescent substance which as well as emitting light, ignited when exposed to air.

PISS FOR PEACE - PIS POR LA PAZ - شيخ من أجل السلام



Phosphorus has become of great importance to agriculture and food production. World wide demand for fertilisers has caused record phosphate production. There are large deposits of Phosphate rock in the Moroccan occupied territories of the Western Sahara being exploited illegally.







PISS FOR PEACE - PIS POR LA PAZ - شخ من أجل السلام



Using human urine contributed by the people of Tifariti, and following a formula found in the internet, artists Francis Gomila & Bettina Semmer proposed to recreate Brand's experiment as a protest to the illegal mining and exploitation of Phosphate in the occupied Western Sahara.









The formula is simple in nature (a mixture of urine, ground charcoal, bone meal, and cinnamon) the process of distilling Phosphorous, as the substance itself, is highly dangerous. DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS AT HOME!



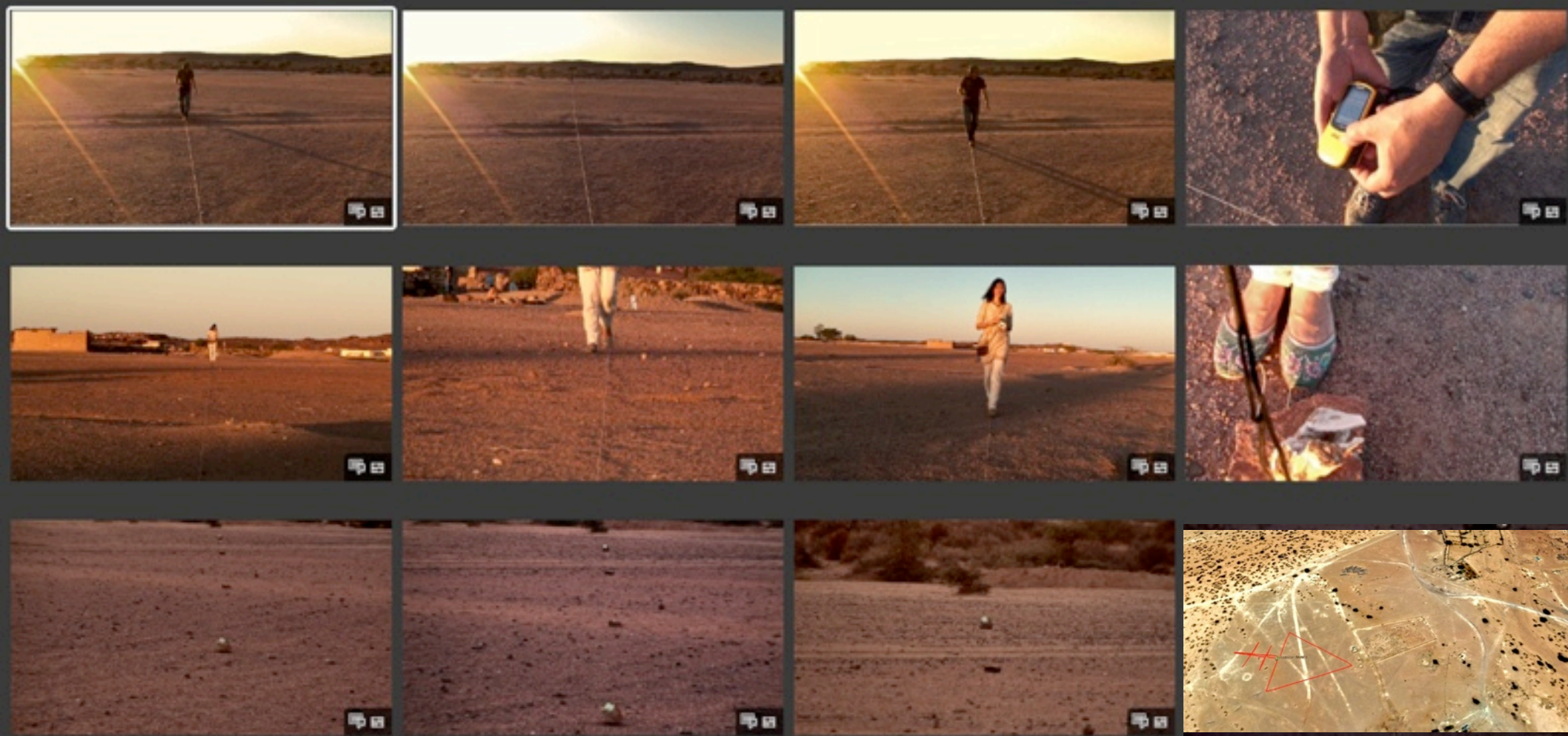


Although copious amounts of urine was enthusiastically donated & collected by fellow artists and the people of Tifariti, it proved impossible, in mid desert, to resource the necessary materials to construct the distillation equipment - the artists plan to recreate the experiment for **ARTIFARITI 10**



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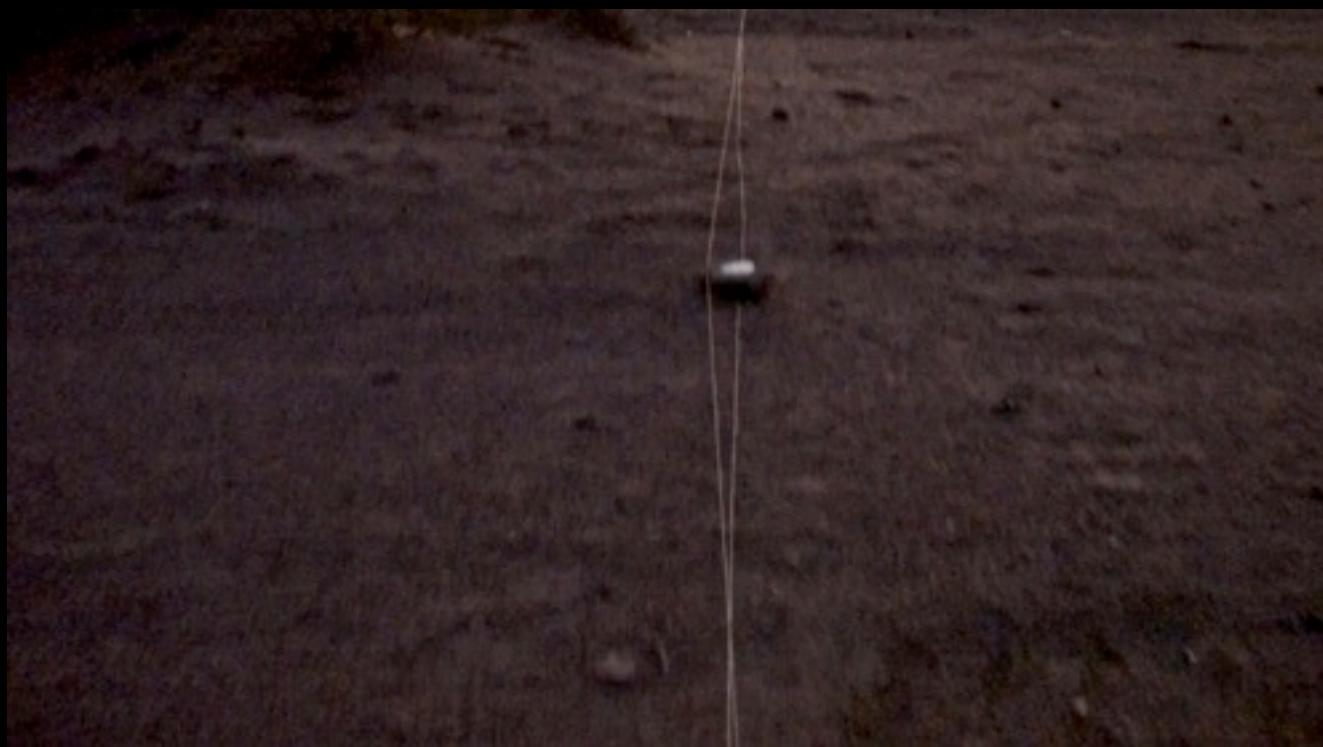
the alchemy of drawing



The alchemist symbol for phosphorus was etched as an in-situ GPS earth drawing into the Saharan landscape



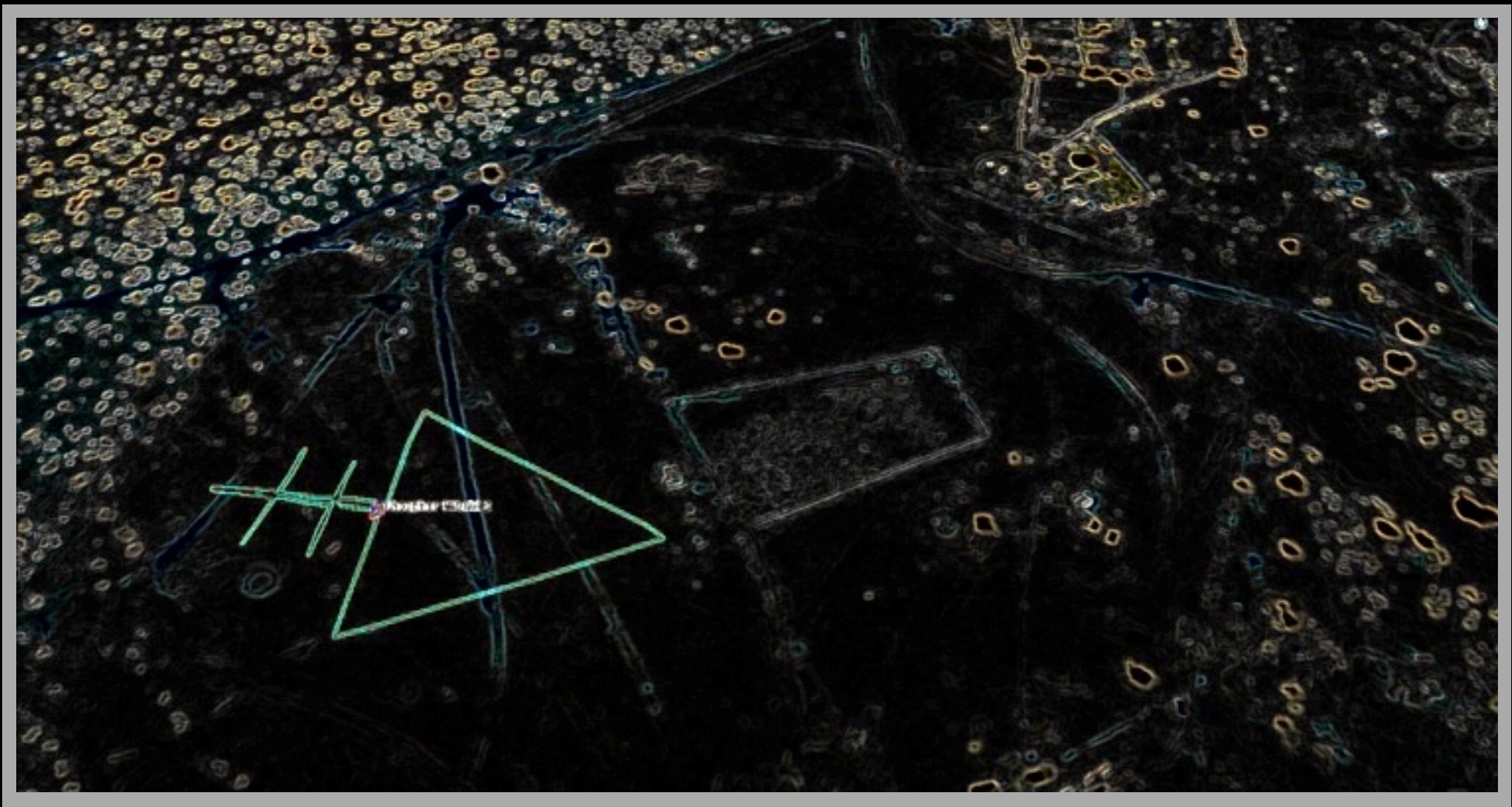






GOOGLE EARTH LAT: 26.15 77° N. LON: 10. 56 33° W

in-situ GPS drawing TIFARITI Western Sahara



The GPS tracking co-ordinates of the 130 metre drawing was uploaded to [Google Earth](#) as an indelible symbol of the illegal exploitation of Phosphorus in the occupied Western Sahara.