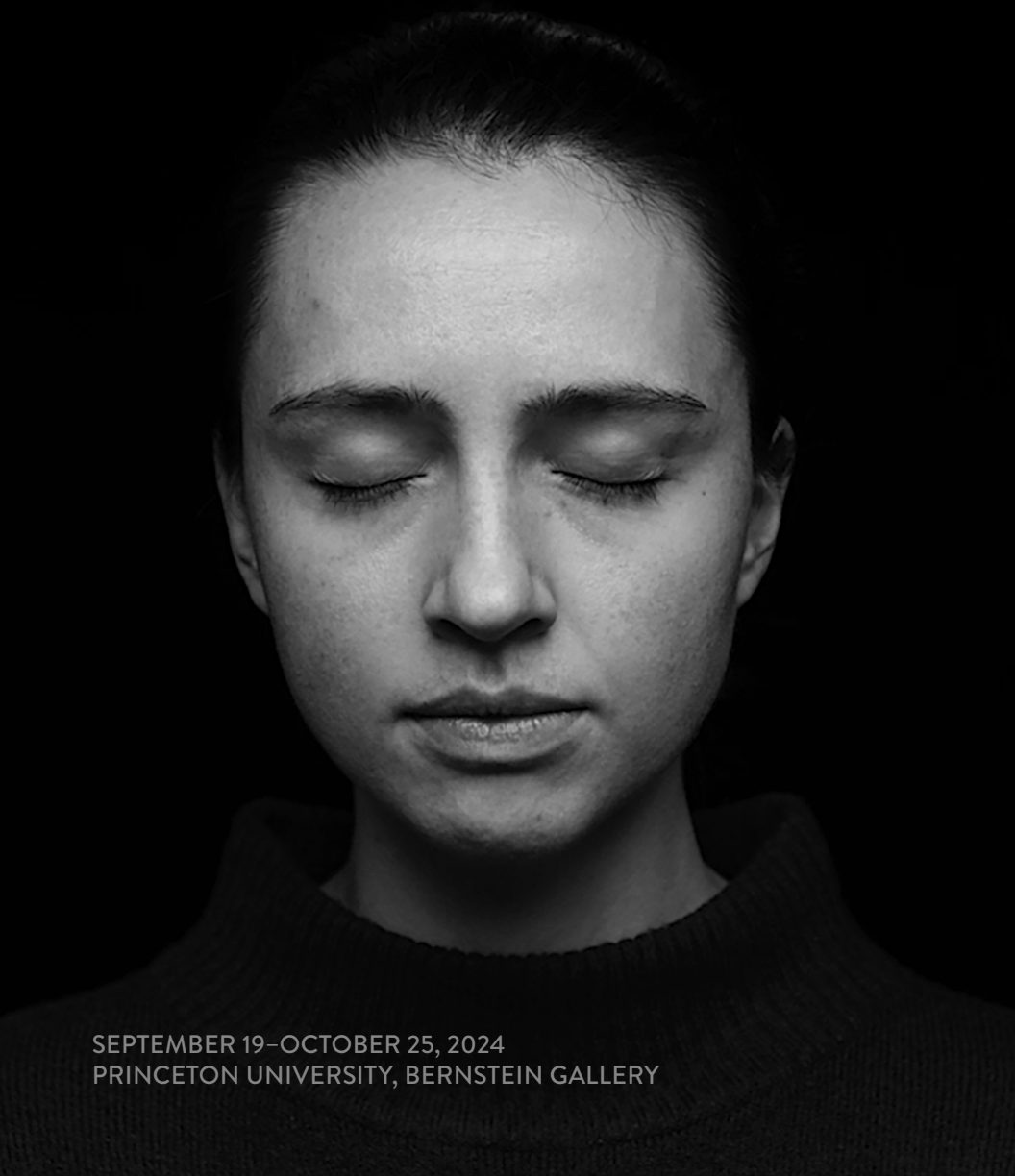


CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

FACING THE BOMB IN A NEW NUCLEAR AGE



SEPTEMBER 19–OCTOBER 25, 2024
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, BERNSTEIN GALLERY

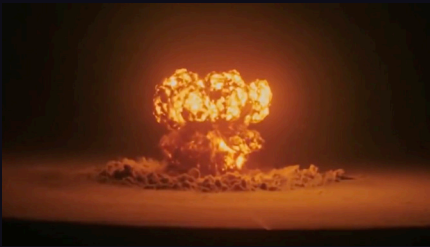
“Close Encounters: Facing the Bomb in a New Nuclear Age”

September 19–October 25, 2024

Princeton University, Bernstein Gallery



On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Program on Science & Global Security (SGS), part of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, this special exhibition at the Bernstein Gallery confronts the existence and threat of nuclear weapons. It marks the first stop of an international university tour of *the bomb*, a multimedia installation by Smriti Keshari and Eric Schlosser '81.



Unfolding across forty-five screens, *the bomb* immerses viewers in the story of nuclear weapons, from the first nuclear test and subsequent use against Japan by the United States in 1945, to today's arms race. It illuminates the thousands of nuclear weapons—held only by nine states—on land, underground, and at sea, many ready for launch. Though largely hidden from view, these weapons pose an ever-present existential threat to humanity.



Inspired by nuclear weapon command-and-control centers, *the bomb's* design evokes the technological fallibility of such systems, the devastating consequences of errors and malfunctions, and the inherent impossibility of ever fully controlling these machines.



Left, from top: Installation view of Smriti Keshari and Eric Schlosser's *the bomb*, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY; stills from *the bomb*

Credits

the bomb (TRT: 60 mins) is created by Smriti Keshari and Eric Schlosser; Film by Kevin Ford, Smriti Keshari and Eric Schlosser; Installation Design: Ben Kreukniet; Music: The Acid; Art Director: Stanley Donwood; Animation: The Kingdom of Ludd; Installation Technical Lead: Adam Paikowsky, Greenhouse Media, Doug Hock; Installation Producer: Cherefawn Chang.

Plan A (TRT: 4 mins) is developed by Alex Wellerstein, Tamara Patton, Moritz Kütt, and Alexander Glaser with assistance from Bruce Blair, Sharon Weiner, and Zia Mian. The sound is by Jeff Snyder.

We Must Speak Boldly – Physicists Coalition for Nuclear Threat Reduction (TRT: 6 mins) is commissioned by the Physicists Coalition. Director: Smriti Keshari; Producer: Hazel Gibson; Cinematographer: Nick Korompilas; Editor: Dani Benavides; Animation: The Kingdom of Ludd; Music: Matthew Herbert. Technical advice: Matt Caplan, Zia Mian, and Stewart Prager. Special thanks to participants in the Princeton School on Science and Global Security 2023.

Infographic panels: Alexander Glaser, Zia Mian, Tamara Patton, Sebastien Philippe, Sharon Weiner. Graphic design: Kraenk Visuell.

"Close Encounters: Facing the Bomb in a New Nuclear Age" is organized by the Program on Science and Global Security (SGS), with Lina Kavaliunas, Curator, Bernstein Gallery, and support from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

Biographies

Smriti Keshari is a multimedia artist and filmmaker whose work spans traditional, linear filmmaking and art installations. She brings an experimental approach to exploring underrepresented themes. Keshari is a former artist-in-residence at Pioneer Works, an art space in Brooklyn, NY, and at the National Theatre in London. She was a TED Prize finalist and one of Foreign Policy's Global Creative Thinkers for 2016.

Eric Schlosser '81 is a writer whose work has been published in dozens of countries, performed on stage, and adapted into films. His book, *Command and Control*, tells the story of America's effort to prevent its nuclear weapons from being stolen, sabotaged, or detonated by accident. It was a *New York Times* best seller and a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in History. He was among Foreign Policy's Global Creative Thinkers for 2016.

About the Program on Science & Global Security

Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security (SGS), based in the School of Public and International Affairs, conducts scientific, technical and policy research, analysis and outreach to advance national and international policies for a safer and more peaceful world.

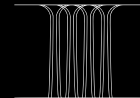
The Program was founded in 1974 by physicists in Princeton's School of Engineering and Applied Science as part of the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies and moved to Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs in 2001. Harold Feiveson and Frank von Hippel founded and co-directed the Program from 1974 to 2006. From 2006 to 2016, the Program was directed by Christopher Chyba. Since 2016, SGS has been directed by Alexander Glaser and Zia Mian.

Hours & Information

The Bernstein Gallery is free and open to the public. Hours during the academic year are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The gallery is located in the Bernstein Lobby, on the lower level of Robertson Hall.

Interested in learning more? Please scan this QR code for additional information about "Close Encounters" and the Program on Science and Global Security.



Princeton School
of Public and
International Affairs