

Battery of Cenizas - Defence Methodology II

1999-2005

Rosell Meseguer

After the Second World War, during Roosevelt's Presidency, the director of the Research and Science Development Office, Vannevar Bush, issued a report titled: *Science, the Frontier without End*. In this report, Mr. Bush talked about how defence strategies were put into practice in daily life. Vannevar, justified the need of military research to improve social welfare. One of the most outstanding improvements was the invention of the radar and its later use in everyday life.

This new eye, the radar, was able to detect submarines, which were first invented by Isaac Peral (Cartagena – Spain). Submarines constituted yet another element of military science that could be deactivated and detected by the radar.

Within this frantic military course and its strategic changes, the project unfolds: *Batería de Cenizas. Metodología de la Defensa* (Battery of Ashes - Defence Methodology), starts in 1999, as a pile of metaphors about currently abandoned military spaces, interrelating with one another, as an image of deserted and abandoned place; some people imagine oblivion as a desert dump / a harvest of nothingness. However, oblivion is full of memory¹.

¹ BENEDETTI, Mario: *El olvido está lleno de memoria*. Visor. Madrid, 1995, page 15.

This project begins with the descent during my childhood to a mine; a real labyrinth of galleries. I was living then in Cartagena (Spain), and sometimes my father used to take my brother, my sister and I, to visit the ships of the harbour: a corvette, a submarine. At home, a series of images depicting these boats were hanging on the walls. Those outings, that touched the salt of the salt mines and the dockyards, drew me initially to explore the underworlds and the maritime coast; I became a tracker of vestiges and documents from the past...

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