



women and
their work

KRISTIN LUCAS
REFRESH
2007

“Technology makes the change...replacing information. The computer erases.”

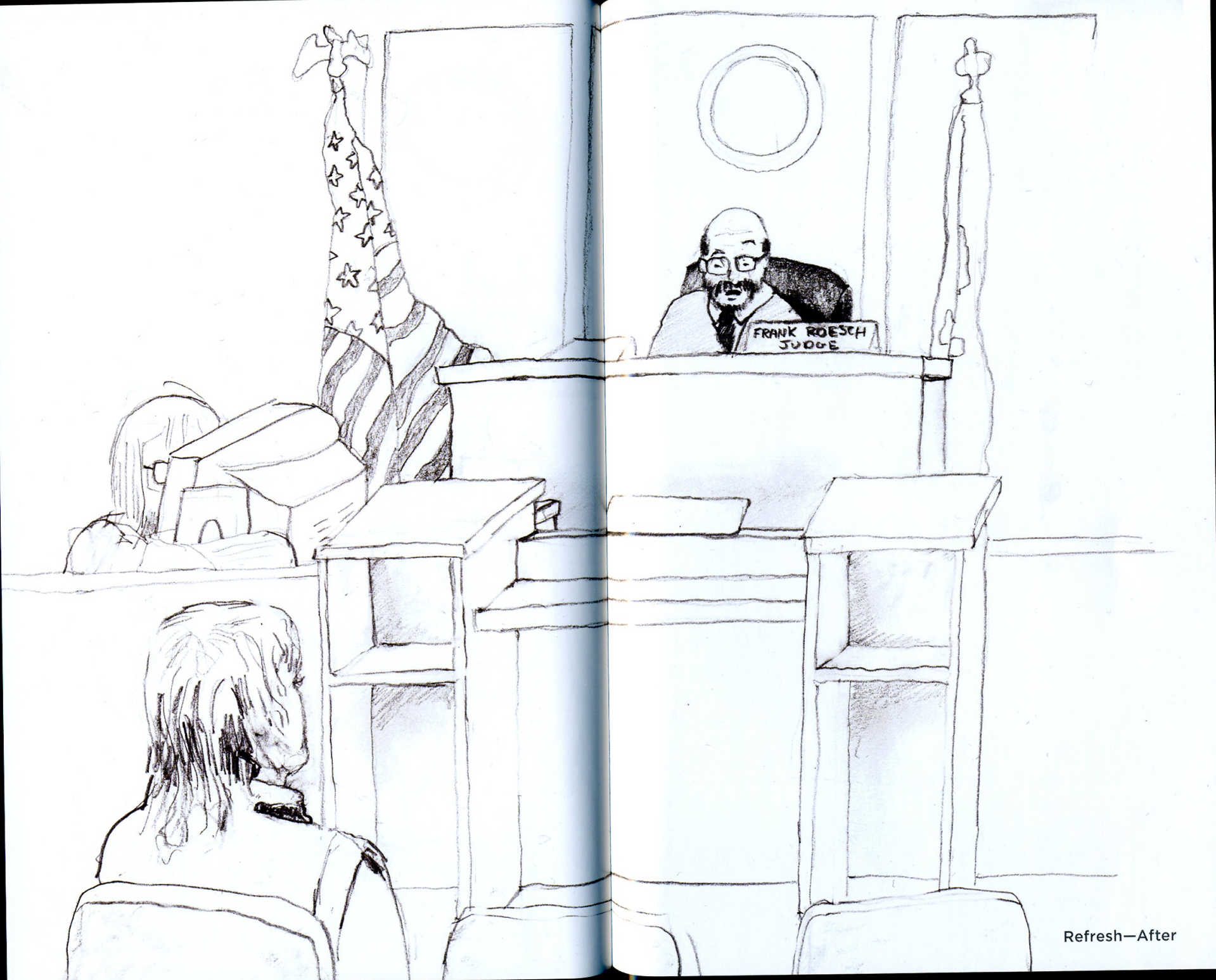
Kristin Lucas often uses technology to exploit and draw attention to its insidious alienating effects on our minds, bodies and general self-perception as a race.

In “Refresh” the artist enters the bureaucratic miasma specifically in order to change her name from Kristin Sue Lucas to Kristin Sue Lucas—rendering this process completely transparent. This seemingly absurd proposition was set up only to become a mirror to the even more absurd governmental procedures and systems of identification. As the artist attempts to explain to the judge the desire to ‘reload’ (as in reloading a web page) they enter into a philosophical discussion worthy of Wittgenstein. The entire exchange, a fascinating balance of real dialogue and legalese, was documented and transcribed by the artist’s partner and collaborator, Joe McKay. In the end the presiding judge apprehensively granted Lucas her request; in his words, “In Alameda County Court, you have changed your name to exactly what it was before in the spirit of refreshing yourself as though you were a web page.”

In an expanded version, this piece also incorporates portraits of Kristin Lucas (in her ‘before’ and ‘after’ state) drawn by several artist friends. Here, documentation of the action includes a certified name change form, newspaper clipping, sketches from court hearings, and a transcript of the debate between the artist and the presiding judge over the perception of change.

KRISTIN LUCAS





SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
County of Alameda, Rene C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse
Case No. RG07336497

Date: September 21, 2007
Petitioner: Kristin Sue Lucas
Petitioner represented by: Kristin Sue Lucas
Judge: The Honorable Frank Roesch

Transcript of Change of Name Hearing:

JR : Kristin Lucas... You are the last one on the calendar today, Miss Lucas. Because I really don't quite understand. This process requires a change to be taking place. And you're not asking for anything to change. You're asking for this order that to you stays the same.

KL: I have prepared a brief statement, um, to read to the court, if I may.

JR : You may.

KL: Okay.

KL: Your honor I am hear for a refresh.

A renewal of self.

I consider this act to be a poetic gesture and a birthday gift.

I am ready for an update.

An intervention into my life.

I am here to be born again as myself, or at the very least, the most current version of myself.

I am prepared to let go.

To empty my cache.

To refill the screen with the same information.

To reboot knowing that the new Kristin Lucas may experience a tremendous sense of loss, detachment, or disappointment, or joy.

Kristin Lucas is ready for change.

And Kristin Lucas awaits her replacement.

JR : But it's not a change.

KL: I feel it is a change if it's entered into the system. And it's, it's like, like uh, like uhm, honoring your vows in marriage.

BIO

Kristin Lucas lives in California and New York. Transformations and portraiture are the focus of her work as she investigates visions of the future, the effects of an accumulation of rapid-spread flash-in-the-pan technology on the human condition, and the impact of the digital medium on perceptions of time and space.

Lucas' work has been exhibited at The Whitney Biennial, and in group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art and Artists Space, New York; San Jose Museum of Art; Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville; ACC Weimar; ICA, London; ZKM, Karlsruhe; and at festivals in Amsterdam, Berlin, Mexico City, Montreal, Toronto, New York and San Francisco. Solo exhibitions of her recent work have been held at And/Or Gallery, Dallas; Postmasters Gallery, New York; Or Gallery, Vancouver; and JEMA, a location variable museum.