# **EXPOSING THE HERO**

Dan Paz

It's possible to view life on earth as largely defined by degrees of control; to what degree is any one life in control of itself and in what ways might outside influences limit how one perceives or experiences their own agency? Controlling forces of all kinds can exert limitations on lives within a spectrum that ranges from the trivial to the severe. Through the following artwork, Dan Paz reveals the disturbingly insidious dynamic that has come to pass between two such forces: photography and incarceration. In addition to the following work, Paz offers a statement that further articulates the thinking behind *Exposing the Hero*.

-MIKE SCHUH

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PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH	4
PUBLIC CRIMINAL RECORDS	4
COUNTY CRIMINAL RECORDS	4
CRIMINAL RECORDS SEARCH	4
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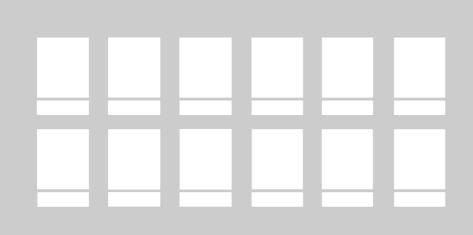
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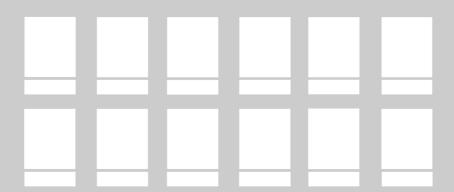
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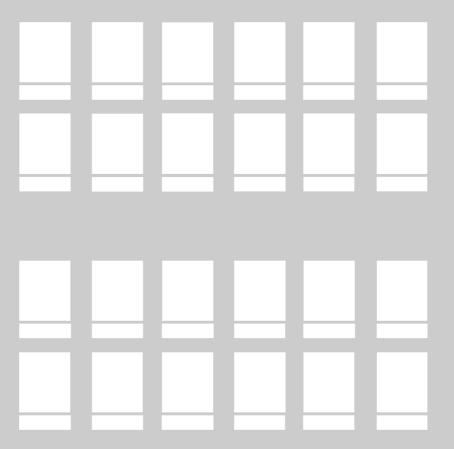
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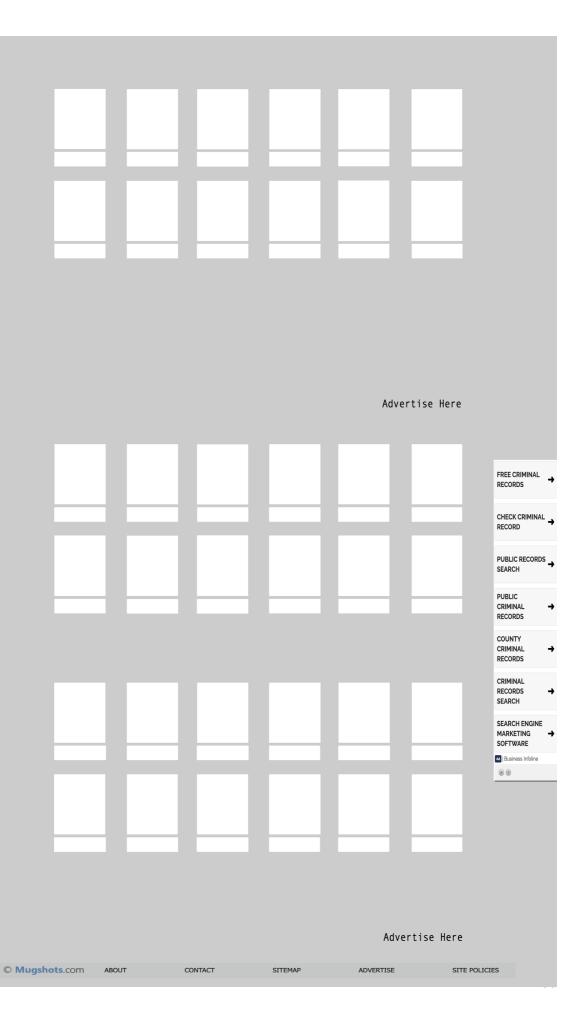
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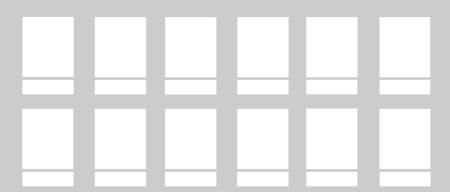
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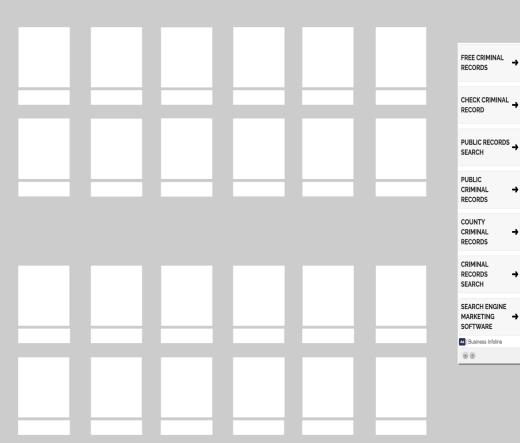
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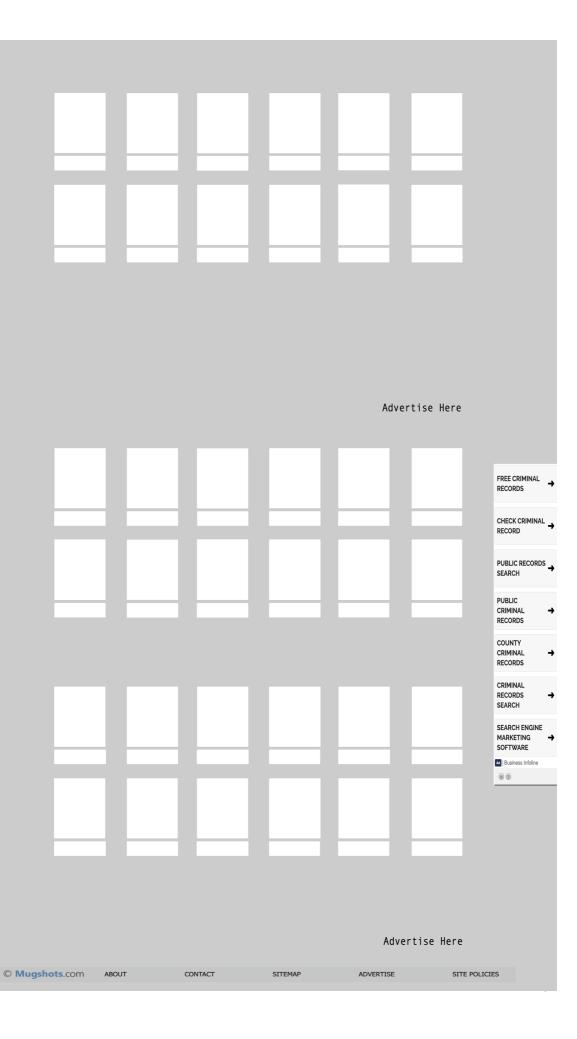
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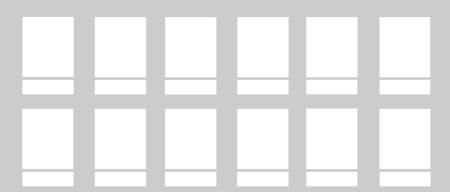
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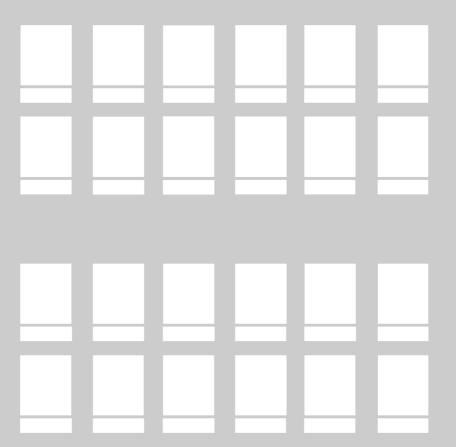












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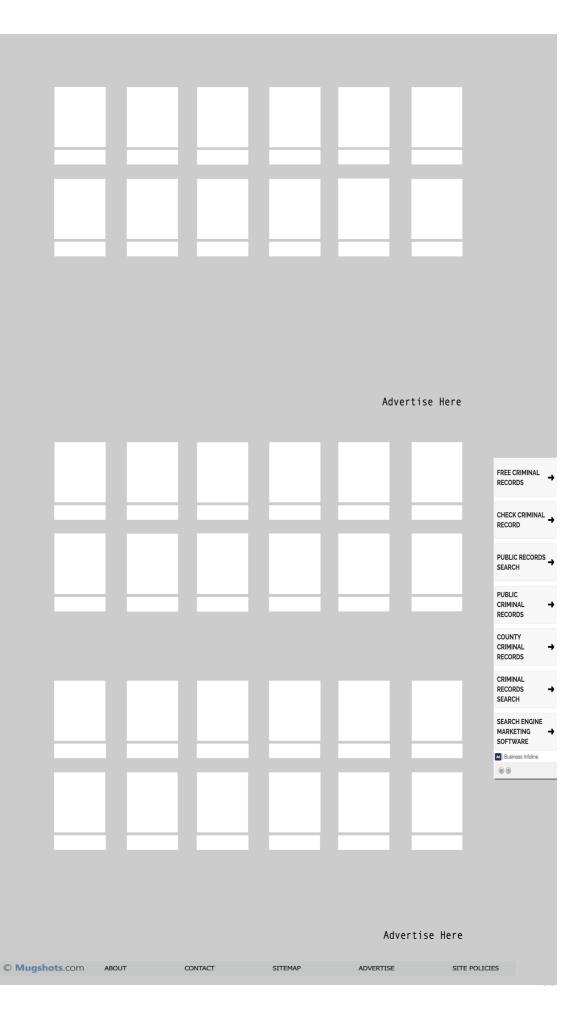
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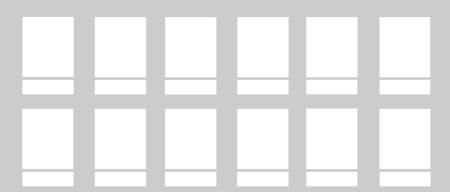
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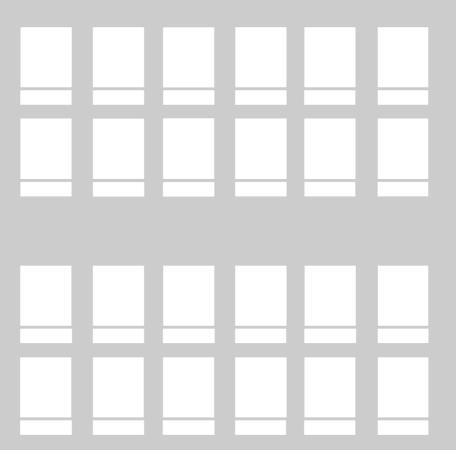
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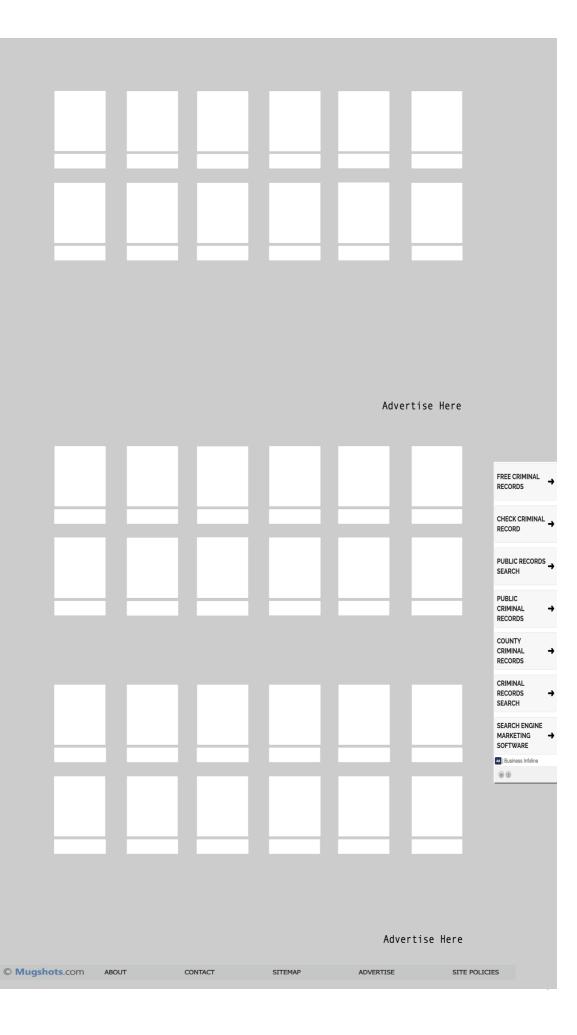
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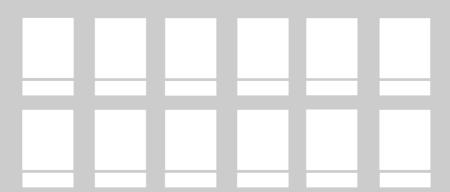
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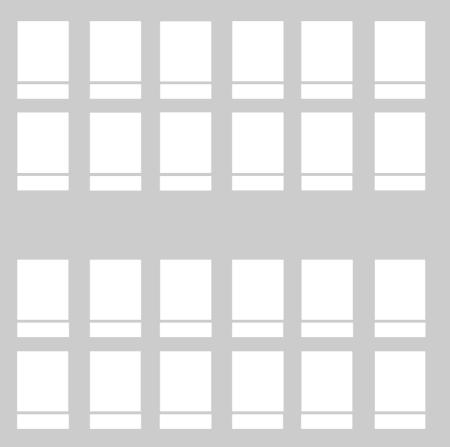
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Inmate Name :

Race: Sex: Age: Height: Weight: Offense:

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Exposing the Hero, part of a larger book project, is an inquiry into the mugshot publishing industry, in particular, the photogravure process as an early method of replicating an image en masse in newspapers. This project traces the phenomena in tabloid journalism to contemporary archives of mugshots online. If there is no plate or film negative, only infinite digital positives, then how long can one's image be used against them? Unlike analog practice, how does digital circulation end, or put differently, how are these violent legacies perpetuated online?

The pictorial space of the project uses the form of the web page as internet architecture, designed to re-carcerate people via their image. I question the scraped mugshot from multi-jurisdictional websites (such as mugshots.com), and how this exists as industry, another carceral economy.

Exposing the Hero asks: When do the most vulnerable people get to be free? How did the historical positive to negative process—the daguerreotype to gravure, akin to the analog to digital moment—change the commodification of lives and the landscape of carceral power in circulation?

-DAN PAZ