The effects of the ever-increasing world population have reverberated across cities, states and nations. With the global population at 7 billion, the need to carve out private space is becoming paramount to people everywhere. Those in developing countries that make up the majority of the world struggle to create the best shelter they can, while those in more developed countries have the more luxurious concern of the loss of privacy. All private moments have the potential to be exposed to the public, if not instantaneously, then certainly at some point in the future.

In *Under Cover*, artists explore the dualistic meaning of shelter. Mary Mattingly, Patrick McDonough, Keith Perelli, Anne Percoco and Kelly Loudenberg examine the concept of shelter as a physical space, while Saul Robbins, Jen Davis, James Coupe, Nate Larson, Marni Shindelman and Vin Grabill address shelter as a psychological state.

In urban areas such as Baltimore, the need for psychological shelter is great. We have become a highly monitored society where privacy is an illusion. Through surveillance cameras and other modern monitoring techniques like the Global Positioning System (GPS), people are hyper-aware of the gaze of remote, invisible eyes. But public spaces are not the only places where we feel these tensions. In *Under Cover*, Saul Robbins’ photographs of therapists’ offices record the places where the most intimate conversations are revealed. Similarly, Jen Davis documents private web camera conversations on the Internet. Nate Larson and Marni Shindelman’s photographs ground those who spontaneously share their thoughts on Twitter in brief, 140-character “tweets” by revealing these users are also unwittingly disclosing their exact geographical position.

Cities including Baltimore have all been affected by the dissolution of public and private space in the 21st century. Since the invention of surveillance cameras, their use has rapidly expanded to almost every public space. From department stores to residential lobbies, business offices to city streets, cameras designed to record every movement are always watching. These concerns are particularly pertinent to Baltimore, where more than 500 cameras have been placed around the city streets to arguably help protect citizens at the cost of invading their privacy.

At a time when personal privacy awareness is beginning to peak in real and virtual society, the negative and positive consequences that come from public surveillance must be weighed. *Under Cover* asks its audience to consider the limits of privacy invasion and to what extent surveillance of public and private life is necessary.

*Curatorial statements do not necessarily represent the views of MICA. For updates and more information about *Under Cover*, visit micaundercover.com. For high-resolution images or interview requests, contact MICA’s Office of Communications at 410.225.2300.