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Proceedings

medium: *video*

duration: *9 minutes*

date: *2003*

Proceedings is a short video work about the double murder trial of Scott Peterson, convicted in 2004 of killing his pregnant wife, Lacy in order to pursue an adulterous affair with a masseuse. Through a video diary of sorts recorded in real-time during the trial, the artists capture the reality-like drama of the event while simultaneously focusing on their own dynamic as a couple. While talking about the Peterson's financial woes, they relate them to their own financial woes, for example. Or when discussing eye-witness accounts by the neighbors they discuss how much their own neighbors might know about them.

Throughout the trial, the artists spent their free time -- all of their free time -- obsessing over the details reported by the news. They watched television broadcasts about the trial, read articles, and perused online chatrooms. Fletcher attempted to side with the defense's position that Scott Peterson could have been innocent. Reichert sided with the prosecution and argued his guilt. They turned on their video camera and recorded their debate over the outcome of the trial in their living room, at the grocery store, in their bedroom... wherever they found a moment to argue.

For months a small court in Modesto, CA town fulfilled America's insatiable appetite for Reality TV. Continuing a theme in their work, Proceedings is about the power of the media to convey sensationalism through mundane details. In every tabloid drama there exists a "that-could've-been-me" moment for the audience. Seizing on the morbid and shocking outcome of the most widely publicized courtroom event in the United States since celebrity O. J. Simpson faced accusations for the murder of his ex-wife Nicole, Fletcher and Reichert seem to imply "that-could've been-art".