

**CRAZY HORSE ONE-EIGHT:**  
*a radio cantata in memory of those killed*

Gregory Whitehead

The “collateral murder” video that documents the killing of journalists and civilians in Iraq by forces of the US military represents what is possibly the most consequential social media posting of all time, with direct implications ranging from the prosecution of Bradley (Chelsea) Manning and Julian Assange, through to accelerated attempts by the NSA and other global intelligence agencies to expand and enhance internet surveillance and control, while also criminalizing whistle-blowing.

Though the visual aspect of the video has received a tremendous amount of analysis, Crazy Horse One-Eight addresses the weaponization of radiophonic space in the sonic perpetration of these war crimes, while also confronting the casual and dismissive language of the interactions themselves, as evidenced in the transcript of the radio exchanges between helicopters and command.

The public domain transcript for the incident is composed into four “cantos”, which I then voiced, subjecting the recordings to a variety of techniques and rhythms/structures of entropic disintegration, interruption and polyphonic accumulation, all of which I have experimented with at a smaller scale in previous works. Brief excerpts from the audio track of the documentary video construct acoustic envelopes for the vocal migrations, while also creating interplays between degraded military banter that seeks to kill and a solo voice that seeks to commemorate.



CANTO I

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

Crazy Horse One-Eight  
coming at you

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

Crazy Horse One-Eight  
coming at you

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

Crazy Horse One-Eight  
coming at you

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

Crazy Horse One-Eight  
coming at you

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

Crazy Horse One-Eight  
coming at you

Okay we got a target fifteen  
a guy with a weapon OK

CANTO II

Crazy Horse

One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
One-Eight, we also have one individual, uh,  
appears to be wounded trying to crawl  
away away away away  
trying to crawl  
away

CANTO III

Bushmaster, we have a black bongo truck  
picking up the bodies

Bus master we ave a black bongo truck  
pickin up the bodies

B s mas er we ave a bla k bongo tr ck  
pic in up the bod es

B s ma er we av a bla k bo go tr c  
ic in up t e b d es

B s ma er we av a bla k bo go tr c  
ic in up t e b d es

B s ma r we a a b a k bo g r c  
ic n up t e d s

B s m r w a a b a k b g r c  
ic n up t e d s

B m r w a a b a b g r  
ic n p t e s

B m r w a a b g r  
c p e s

