



## **thumbpins, 2005 2006**

**by Emily Hermant**

In this project, I ask: are we at war for control of our security, our privacy, our identity? I began by using the fingerprint to intervene in the public sphere. I enlarged my own thumbprint and began leaving a silkscreened version of it in public spaces such as windows, and bus shelters. I went on to create silkscreened textiles with the thumbprint pattern, using an army green camouflage motif.

The thumbpins project that followed further explores ideas of militarism, surveillance, and the environment. Straight pins are placed side by side and row by row, like soldiers preparing for battle, following the oversized outline of a thumbprint. The pin placement is reminiscent of mapping and military strategy: the pin-pointing of location, the tracking and control of the human body. The installation is gigantic in size, yet meticulously detailed, allowing the viewer to observe the whole pattern of this map of my body from afar, while noticing up-close its invasively detailed construction from straight pins.

