

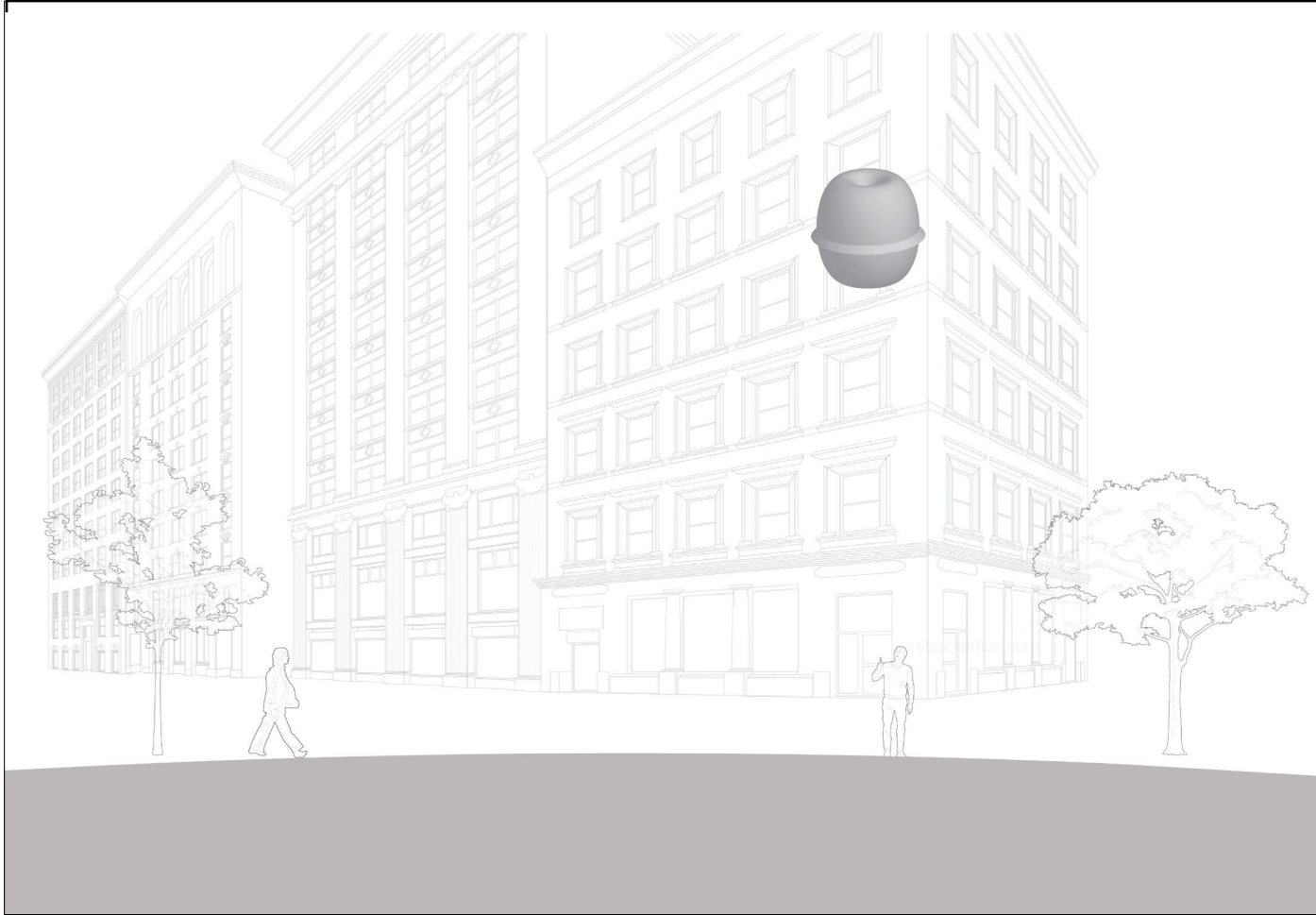
# INFLATABLES FOR PROTEST

Our proposed mechanism allows citizens to take action, claiming public space through the implementation of an inflatable blockade. This social movement finds itself in the crossroads of the physical and technological, as we explore a speculative material representation which grants tangible mass to our individual digital presence. In our proposal we consider the possibility of an autonomous method of protest, giving no role to location, fear for safety and physical ability in this act of citizen participation.

Our narrative begins with a form of protest derived from the autonomy of the internet, recognizing the dissemination on-line content and opinion as it becomes more and more essential to the organization and articulation of political identity. A system of machine learning algorithms are programmed in protest drones, which track and collect public opinion online, monitoring the need for disruption in the physical public space to create an inflatable balloon-like blockade.

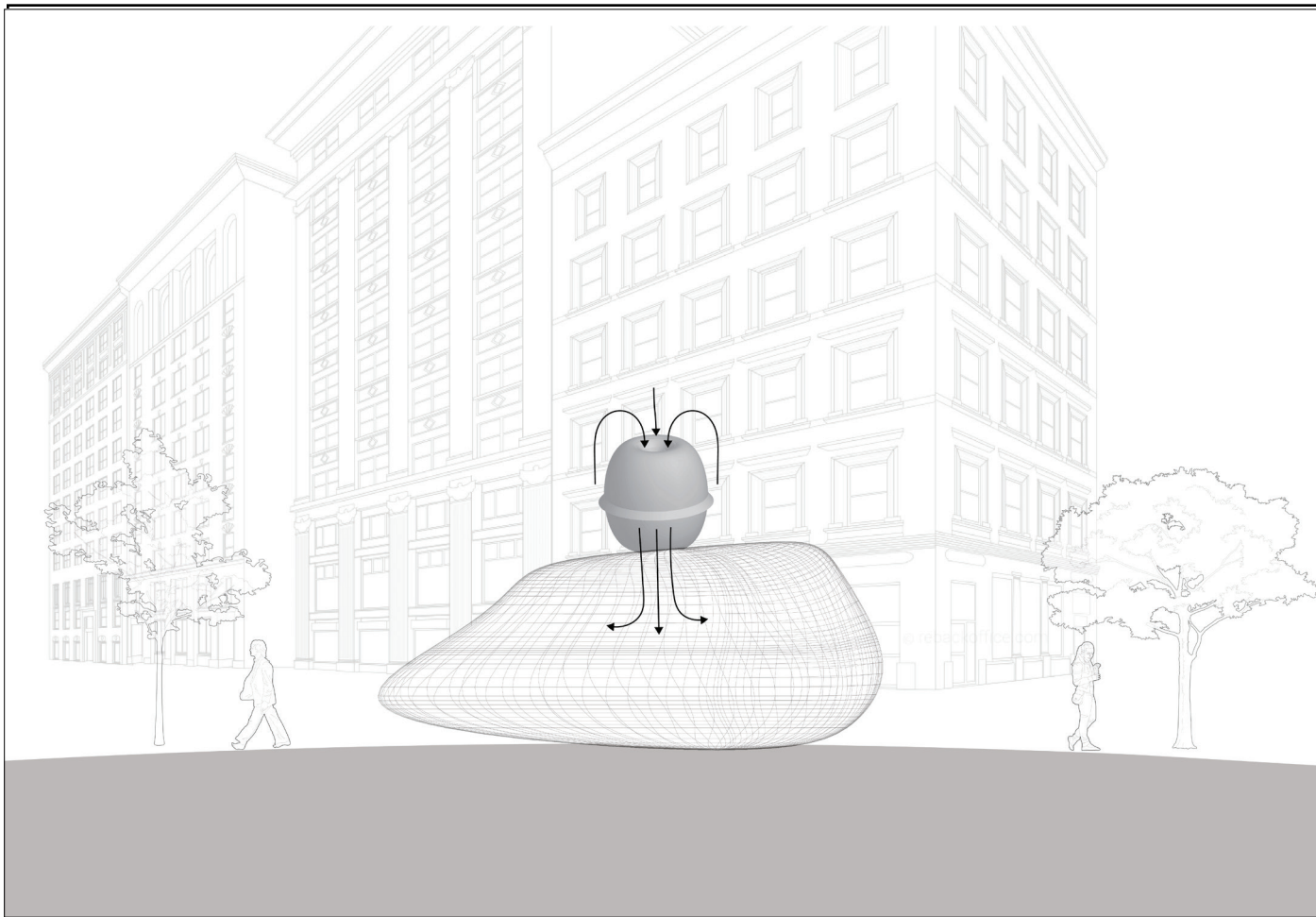






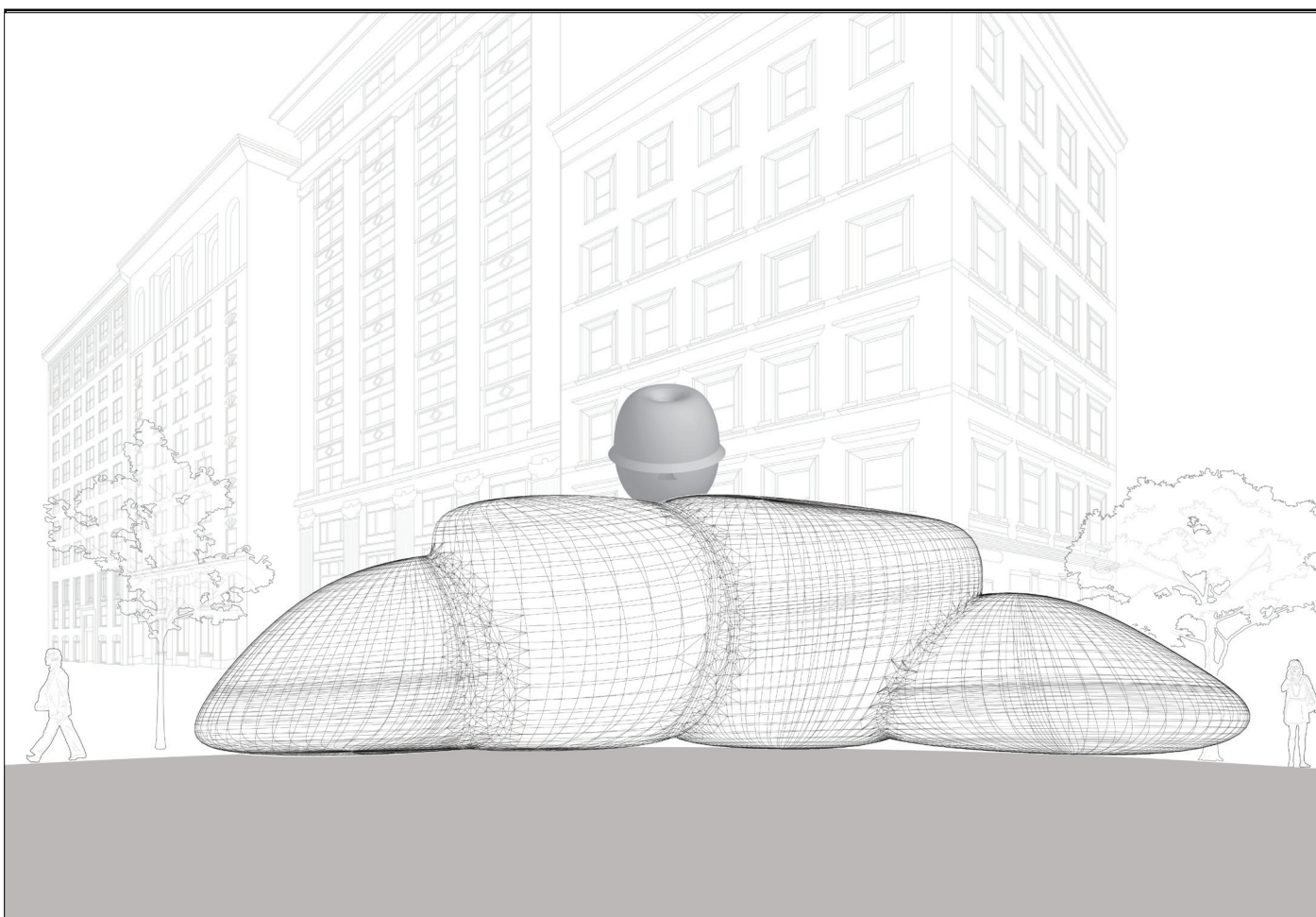
Descent

This algorithm would translate our engagement with news media, blogs, social media, etc, into the need for physical representation and demonstration in a public space it deems most appropriate and effective to such cause. This mechanism is reflective of the autonomy of the internet and represents a new type of protest which is unconscious and autonomous. In the future, this could be useful in situations where it is feared to participate in actions against the government. Once this protest site is chosen, a drone would then be summoned to this space to begin its activation.



Activation

Inside this drone is a compact and lightweight material which can infinitely inflate to fill up a public space. The balloon material is released out of the drone and the propellers begin to suck in air to inflate the balloon. The balloon will fill up with air and begin to take up physical space in this designated public space, acting as a temporary blockade of the space. The material can infinitely expand and spread filling up streets, alleys, parks, and roads representing a physical manifestation of the voice and action of public online opinion.



Infiltration

The size of the inflatable would correlate with the amount volume of online presents and discussion on the given issue at hand. The amount of time the balloon would stay in the space would also be determined by the duration of discussion and participation online. With the time being, the balloon would act in a fluid nature expanding and contracting according to these metrics. Once the online traffic decreases lower than the algorithm’s threshold of what is considered a critical mass of participation, the drone then packs up and moves onto the next space.

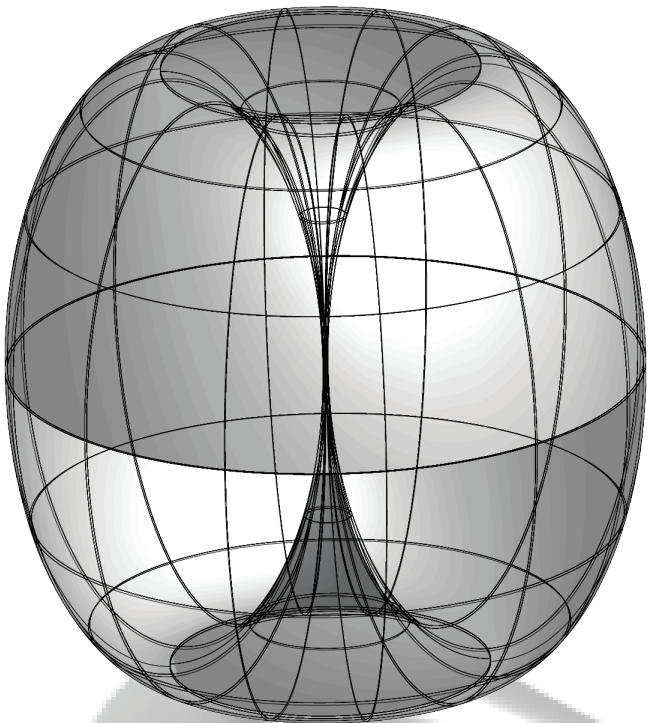
Material

1 — Drone

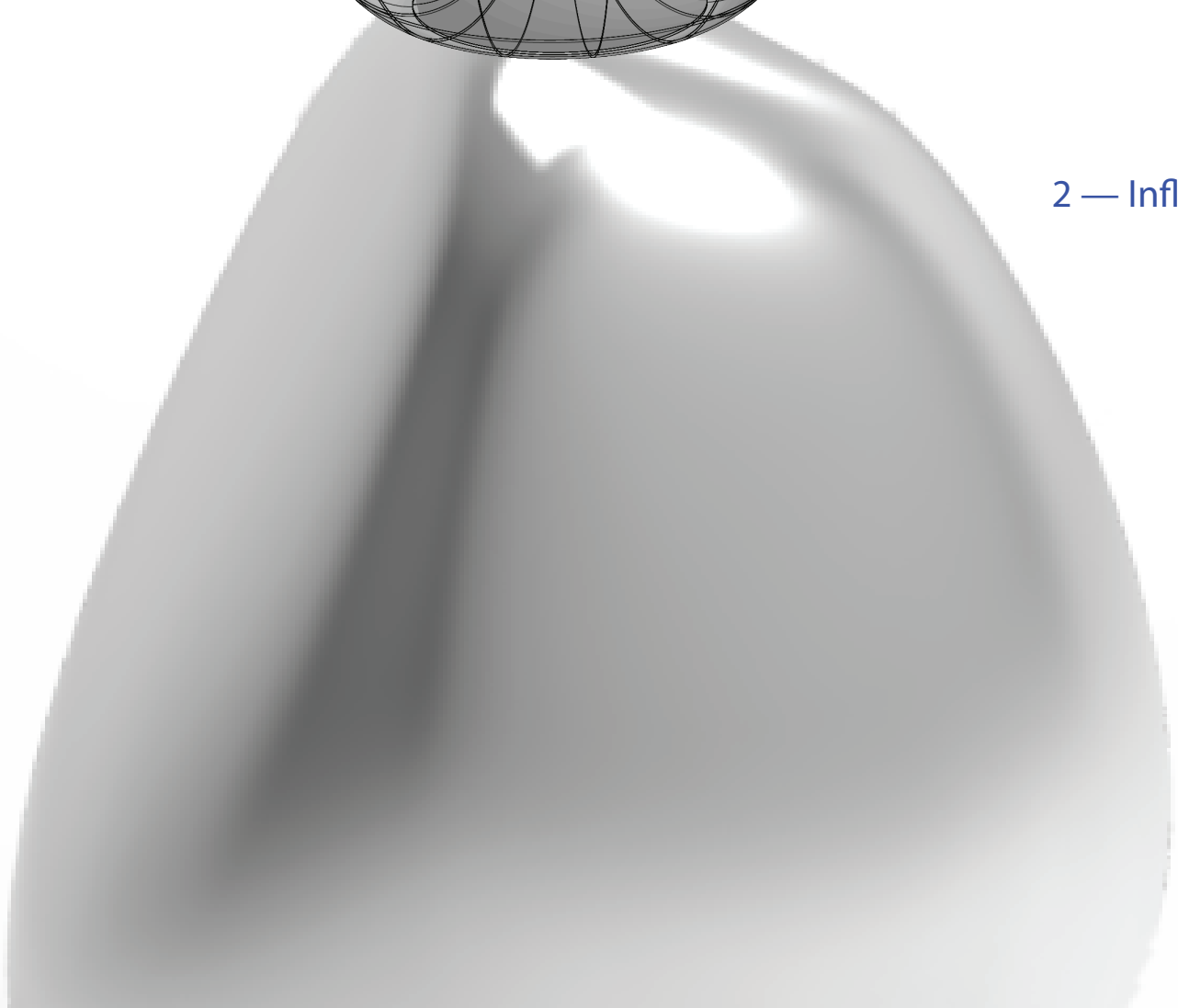
Our drone is built with internal fans and propellers which provide the drone with the capability of flying to the activated space. Once in the space the balloon material is released from the bottom of the drone and the tube shape of the drone and propellers are used as an air intake to then fill up our balloon wiht air.

2 — Inflatable material

We believe that it will be possible for a new material to be developed which is take the properties of an expandable, stretchy vinyl, with the reflectiveness of mylar, which is lightweight and compact. This material would mimic existing materials such as kevlar and tedlar, which also hold anti flammable and bulletproof properties. This would ensure once the inflatable is present in a public space, it would be able to keep its strength and fluidness. This would be a safety feature which would present the inflatable from causing permanent damage to the surrounding areas.



1 — Drone



2 — Inflatable material