



Photography in Virtual Culture

Date: 13th – 14th May 2024, 09:00 – 18:00 BST

Location: University of Westminster, Little Titchfield Street Campus & The Photographers' Gallery, London

Registration: [Photography in Virtual Culture](#)

INTRODUCTION

The last decade has seen a clear shift in the operational frameworks for the production, dissemination and consumption of photographs in contemporary computerised societies. The representational apparatus of photography is being progressively converted into algorithmic and generative processes through computer automation, connectivity and algorithmic control. Recent developments of AI systems and expanded technologies exponentially transform the possibilities for image making and the ways in which photographic images might be created and used within and beyond virtual space. While this might be exciting times for creators, thinkers and developers, it is also a pivotal moment in the history of photography, with debates taking place about its materiality, social function and essence. Through this conference, we aim to develop a communal discussion, inform critiques and thinking on the making of 'virtual photography'.

Conference conveners:

Prof. David Bate, Professor of Photography, University of Westminster, UK

Dr Paula Gortázar, Senior Lecturer in Photography, University of Westminster, UK

PROGRAMME

Monday, 13th May 2024, 09:00 – 14:00

University of Westminster, Little Titchfield Street Campus

9:00 Registration

9:30 Introduction: David Bate and Paula Gortázar

10:00 VIRTUALITY AND THE STILL IMAGE

Peter Ainsworth and Sam Plagerson, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK
The Fractional Space of 3D Computational Images and Ruptures in Visuality

Liat Lavi, Bezalel Academy for Arts and Design, Israel
Ethical Imaginariums and Grassroots Metaphysics

Ziggy Kolker, University of Portsmouth, UK
Chasing the Trace

Panel Discussion and Q&A

11:20 Break

11:40 LIQUID IDENTITIES

Gemma Marmalade, University of Derby, UK
V is for Virtual: 'Thirst Trap' Lesbians and Masculine Performativity of TikTok Visual Content

Chu Yinhua, National Taipei University of Education, Taiwan
Beyond the Mirror: Selfie Expression in the Age of Virtual Imaging

Stephanie Hartle, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
'To Weave the Mirror's Magic Sights': Mimesis and Posthumanism in the Virtual Selfie

Panel Discussion and Q&A

13:00 Lunch Break

Monday, 13th May 2024, 14:00 – 18:00

The Photographers' Gallery, Ramillies Street

14:00 NEW PRACTICES IN VISUAL AND COMPUTATIONAL ART

Roc Herms, Visual Artist, Spain

This is Real, Man!

Juanrie Strydom, Solent University, UK

Disability as a Visual Language: Technology and Accessibility

George Legrady, University of California, USA

Mythic Narratives in MidJourney and Stable Diffusion

Simone Santilli, Visual Artist, Independent Researcher and Educator, Italy

Galactic Mine. Photography and Extractivism in the Procedural Universe of No Man's Sky

Panel Discussion and Q&A

15:50 Break

16:10 PERFORMING NETWORKED ARCHIVES

Anshul Roy, Syracuse University, USA

Rage Against the Archive: Institutional Critique through New Media Art

Livia Foldes, Rhode Island School of Design, USA

NSFW Venus: On Classifying Bodies, from Colonial Archives to Machine Learning Datasets

Ochi Reyes, University of Westminster, UK

She Dreamt...

Panel Discussion and Q&A

17:30 Plenary Session

18:00 Social Drinks

Tuesday, 14th May 2024, 09:00 – 14:00

University of Westminster, Little Titchfield Street Campus

9:00 Registration

9:30 GENERATIVE POLITICS AND ACTIVISM

Lee Wing Ki, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Disobedient Imageries: Netizens and their Critical-political Practices in Hong Kong

Nina Mangalanayagam, HDK-Valand, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Generating the Past

Megan Williams, Journalist, Creative Review, UK

Visualising Unrest in the Age of Generative AI

Basil Al-Rawi, Visual Artist, Independent Researcher and Educator, Ireland

Building a House of Memory: Expanding Iraqi Archive Photos with Oral History and VR

Panel Discussion and Q&A

11:20 Break

11:40 THE MACHINE AS CO-CURATOR

Nicolas Malevé, Aarhus University, Denmark

The Exhibitionary Complex of Image Generation

Nathalie Dietschy, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Towards Techno-Worlds: Photography in the Hands of AI Systems

Catherine Troiano, V&A Museum, London

Distilling the Dataset: Ethics and Artistic Practice in Generative Image Cultures

Panel Discussion and Q&A

13:00 Lunch Break

Tuesday, 14th May 2024, 14:00 – 17:30

The Photographers' Gallery, Ramillies Street

14:00 REBEL ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

Catherine M. Weir, Glasgow School of Art, UK

Frankenstein's Camera: Reflections on Practice Between Photography and AI

Benjamin Mehigan, Royal College of Art, UK

Light Without Heat: The Virtual Reproduction of Wildfire

Adam Brown, London South Bank University, UK

Images in Advance of the State: Photorealistic Architectures after the Blockchain.

Panel Discussion and Q&A

15:20 Break

15:40 EXPANDED VISION AND HYPERSPACE

Alison Bennett, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

The Desire of a Third Dimension in Photography

Jack Lander, Visual Artist, UK

Indexical Encroachment in Semi-Synthetic Landscapes

Giles Price, Visual Artist, UK

Remote Documentary: What is it to Document Virtually?

Panel Discussion and Q&A

17:00 Closing Remarks

17:30 End