

RADICAL RESPONSE

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MILAN

Radical Response Milan

The Department of Design at Manchester School of Art is one of the oldest established, largest and broadest providers of design education in the UK.

In this exhibition academic staff offer an insight, through practice to our research. We value the role craft and making play in this. We strive, to respond with innovation to societal challenges through materials, making and creative experimentation.

We hope it serves as a catalyst for discussion and future research collaboration.

VENTURA PROJECTS

MILAN DESIGN WEEK

2020

Ventura Projects
Via Tortona, 54,
20144 Milano MI, Italy

Radical Response is an exhibition of work by academic staff from the Department of Design at Manchester School of Art.

The department is one of the oldest established, largest and broadest providers of design education in the UK. We value the role craft and making play in design and research, whilst striving to respond to current societal challenges through creative experimentation, design thinking and policy change.

We hope the work will provide you with an insight in to our research activities and serve as a catalyst for discussion and future research collaboration.

Dr Annie Shaw & Fabrizio Cocchiarella
Exhibition Curators

Adam Griffiths
Obscenity & The Arts (Transmogrifies)

Obscenity & the Arts is the first new work from Anthony Burgess in over twenty years. The story of his struggle with censorship, religious conservatism and a vengeful government on the island of Malta between 1968 & 1974 has never been told before. The book design and subsequent photo essay 'Transmogrifies' simulate the same processes and methods that the Maltese government adopted in censoring, editing and defacing Burgess' works and belongings during the 70's.

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Dr Annie Shaw
ICOSAHEDRON (2019) (Aluminum/Foam Backer Rod)

'ICOSAHEDRON' is a pavilion-scale structure, the conclusion of an interdisciplinary research project with Atelier Platform, Manchester School of Architecture. The research explores potentials for seamless knit at architectural scale examining tectonics, fabrication, materiality and construction. Knitting has parochial reputation, however it is the ideal foundation for new form generation. The physics of its construction/mathematical underpinning make it inherently amenable to computational modelling. Its human-scale production and social associations align with the central values of architecture, concerned with construction of environments that support human activity.

The work was exhibited at 'Blue Dot' a festival of Music and Science, Jodrell Bank, a World Heritage Site. (July 2019)

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David Grimshaw
Crafting the Digital

"Crafting the Digital" is an ongoing research project, investigating craft inspired approaches to digital manufacture. The research is developing materially sensitive approaches to CNC Routing, to enable the physicality of the machining process to become fundamental to the final character of the work. "Carved Shield" bowl separates out geometric sections across the surface of the work, with each section assigned a different cutter path. This creates an individual etched pattern in the surface of each bowl, utilising the flexibility of digital manufacturing to generate unique objects within repeat batch production.

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Eleanor Mulhearn and Alice Kettle
The House of Opposites

The future inhabitants of a work-in-progress, artwork-dollhouse* are exhibited here. Inspired by the feminist artist, Leonora Carrington - who was connected with the Surrealists in her early career - our compositions loosely reference the movement's Exquisite Corpse technique. This is the blind swapping with a collaborator of a drawing and adding of body parts, but which we adapt into making, by swapping textile and ceramic pieces. The process enables a surrendering of control and with it, rejection of the nostalgia and order of Occidental dollhouse-figures. In a further subversion of the domestic-sphere, ritual and mythological practices are alluded to, central, too, in Carrington's work.

*The House of Opposites touring installation exhibition, 2020-2021

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Fabrizio Cocchiarella
Joan of Art

Interventions that explore the presence of the 'artschool ghost' Joan Charney, an alumna inspired by an arts education that shaped her life. The interventions allow visitors to get to know Joan through her haunted presence and explore research around potential for the design of paranormal phenomena (in direct response to the conference paper 'Para-design: Engaging the Anomalous'). As visitors explore the levels of the gallery space they will encounter Joan through a series of sonic, sensory and apparitional experiences.

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Geoffrey Mann
If The Mind Were Material

'If the mind were material' is a continuing body of research that explores the crossover between the digital and material world. The 'extended reality material library' investigates a new set of rules that govern the behavior of materials that inhabit the space between. Presented will be a 'live' animation that explores digital user interaction that distort and deform a series of dynamic 'rea' primitive forms that have been assigned a new hybrid material.

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Ian McCullough
The Prayer

The work is a response to the Carol Ann Duffy poem, 'The Prayer'.

As a lifelong Radio 4 listener, the Shipping Forecast has often lulled me to sleep, like some sort of secular meditation, and the poem resonated that feeling. I have always been fascinated by religious iconography and in this case the image was triggered by some Santos cage dolls I first encountered in Lisbon.

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Joe McCullagh
Yeongwol

As part of the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang in 2018, Joe was invited as one of 20 international designers to design a poster in celebration of the forthcoming Winter Olympics to be held in South Korea. The work was exhibited alongside 20 international designers and 20 designers from South Korea. Yeongwol is known for its Ginkgo trees, historically, they were brought into the country together with Confucianism and Buddhism when they were introduced from China.

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John Hewitt
Daily drawings; Manchester homeless

The four images displayed form part of a continuing series of depictions of Manchester's rough sleepers, whose presence has become a new normality in affluent modern cities. They were drawn on site with a gel pen in A6 sketchbooks.

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Jonathan Hitchen
IASDR 2019 (Babel remix)

A live remix of texts from all of the conference papers delivered at IASDR 2019 Design Revolutions. This project weaves together ideas from all ten conference tracks into a new multi-disciplinary 'textspace'. The generative algorithm used to cut-and-paste these texts is developed from ideas outline by Jorge Luis Borges in his short story The Library of Babel. A series of printed bulletins from this 'textspace' will be published and distributed around the conference venues.

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Kate Egan
Wow + Flutter

'Wow & Flutter' is an interactive homage to mindfulness. This kinetic sculpture encourages the viewer to pause momentarily and breathe... to stop and stare or even perhaps to be transported to another place. The research strives to contribute to the development of 'humanising' technology by re-presenting data as surface and light, with 3D print, Arduino, LED's and facial recognition technology.

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Kevin Craig
Thou who art made so rank and beastly, who art thou?

Motion captured ritual performance. 'Thou who art made so rank and beastly, who art thou?' combines elements of Marshall McLuhan's 'The Medium Is The Massage' (1967) with imagery and ideas from folklorist Robert Kirk's 'The Secret Commonwealth' (1815). With a soundtrack of electromagnetic statics and synthesized sound, the work looks to digital 'extensions' and ideas of an 'Occulated Other'.

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Kirsteen Aubrey in collaboration with Natalina Moore and Ryan Dilkes
Light, Lens, Perspective

The work showcases a collaboration led by Kirsteen Aubrey, working with Natalina Moore and Ryan Dilkes, displaying a series of handblown glass lenses with bespoke 3d digital adaptors for camera.

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Lesley Raven and Textbook Studio
(Vicky Carr and Chris Shearston)
Drawing Practice: a methodology to promote reflective practice and collaboration.

This is an interactive work that seeks to engage conference delegates to reflect upon the conference themes using visual methods. This aims to elicit and make explicit fundamental aspects of their design practice. These outcomes will be collated across the duration of the conference and contribute to a limited-edition publication constructed in situ via the collaborative partnership between Raven and Textbook Studio. The publication will visualise reflective practice and present as a collective moment of reflection-in-action with aims to provoke further reflection in wider contexts.

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Lucy Gannon, Ian Whadcock, Jonathan Hitchen
Unity Progress Strength: The Bradford Pit Memorial

This installation presents a life size visualisation of a memorial which commemorates the industrial heritage and community of the former Bradford Colliery in East Manchester, now occupied by SportCity and Etihad Stadium.

It is the culmination of The Bradford Pit Project, initiated in 2013 by Lauren Murphy, a BA(Hons) 3D Design alumnus, and her research into memorial crafts.

The project evolved through a public engagement process which led to the development of archives, a collection of oral histories, exhibitions and practical workshops engaging a spectrum of audiences. Ian Whadcock worked with a number of students from the School of Art to produce a range of visual responses to this material. In 2016, in collaboration with Broadbent Studio this culminated in a significant grant from the City of Manchester to realise the aims of the project, in the form of a permanent memorial on the site.

The design is a collaboration between Lucy Gannon and external partners Broadbent Studio. It features the drawings of former Illustration student Jacob Phillips and graphic design by Jonathan Hitchen. The physical memorial structure represents a lift shaft cage. It allows the viewer to imagine being lowered into a subterranean world below the streets of Manchester and to recognise the history and legacy of this site.

The output represents the impact of practice-based research, and the value of academic, community and industrial partnership. Driven by an authentic voice of protest, seeking meaningful recognition for the past in the present : Lauren Murphy.

We would also like to recognise key role of former design academic Jenny Walker, in making the formative stages of this project possible for the students and partners involved.

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Lucy Biggs
Letterspace

Letterspace is a celebration of letterform in everyday spaces, founded and curated by designer and educator, Lucy Biggs. 26 designers created the inaugural Letterspace alphabet in 2018 informed by spaces throughout the UK, America, Canada, Europe and the Middle East. The alphabet was first presented at The Whitworth and also formed the basis of a workshop for students from schools in the Manchester area, with the aim of encouraging the study of art and design at a higher level.

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Lynn Settrington
Radical Locks

The film documents the creation of a transitory stitched-based monument in which the pseudonymous autographs of the Bronte sisters are written large in the landscape that inspired much of their literary genius. The artwork, a commission, for the Bronte Parsonage Museum in West Yorkshire created with local groups, re-presents and reunites the siblings with the outdoors. The signature quilt, a cloth made up of sewn autographs which originated in the Westward migration underpins the methodology in this practice-based enquiry.

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Mark Manning
Print

The images are part of a large series that subverts linear time. I like to celebrate this sense of how we fly in the present but are landing in the future. Merging matters on one plateau. Like music, the drawings are akin to songs. Some have words, some are effusive and celebratory, while others are quietly hummed.

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Mark Beecroft
Kniteration

Kniteration is a series of 3D printed structures that explore various iterations of the inter-looping knit structure. The pieces explore new behaviours in material form which are the result of exploiting the design freedom of digital modelling and fabrication alongside knit's inherent properties of stretch and elasticity combined with the material properties of the Nylon powder. The pieces are printed by London based 3D print bureau Digits 2 Widgets using Selective Laser Sintering.

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Pattilyn Crozier
Vibrations

We consciously and subconsciously negotiate realities through sound, and our subjective experience of space is affected by the sounds shaping these negotiations. A heel-strike in a quiet gallery can prompt self-regulation of volume and a deeper focus on the art, the constant drone of low-frequency man-made noise can irritate but also become invisible, and the physical visceral effects of the roars of a football crowd can mark out territories. 'Vibrations' explores the predictable and unpredictable soundscapes of our realities and how they can augment our connectedness and subjective experience and the way we negotiate our material world.

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Simone Ridyard
Manchester Tablecloth

Developing an idea based on a recent commission for Manchester International Festival; Manchester Tablecloth will illustrate the city of Manchester through a series of site-specific urban sketches. Located in the Benzie café, delegates, visitors and MMU staff are encouraged to contribute by colouring in the sketches, doodling in the margins, and making their own marks on the tablecloth so the final outcome is a collaborative celebration of the city.

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Steve Threlfall
Digital fabrication - a tool for socially engaged practice

This installation contains a series of objects manufactured through digital fabrication and is set out in 2 parts. Listening to and amplifying 'voices otherwise unheard' (within communities & regeneration processes) is central to my practice within Urban Workbench and is key to the objects on show.

The display incorporates a starter-pack of furniture co-designed with and for young adults (newcomers to Madrid), along with a portable room deployed as a tool for dialogue with residents living in neighbourhoods undergoing regeneration.

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