Spring at the Bluecoat.
The Negligent Eye

Sat 8 Mar – Sun 15 Jun Open daily 10am - 6pm. Free


While printmaking has long embraced the digital, there has been a recent acceleration of interest by a younger generation of artists in approaching technology more critically. The Negligent Eye reflects this increasing experimentation with computers, rapid-form and 3D scanning and digital multiplication, through printed, sculptural, video and mixed media work, as well as earlier artworks using reprographic processes, and archival material.

Curated by Jo Stockham, who has researched how over-immersion in the space of the computer creates a sense of estrangement from the world, the exhibition engages with wider questions around the impact of digital technology on our lives. How, for instance, are scanning technologies changing how we picture and experience the world? The barcode, airport body scanners, medical scans and document scanners are all fraught with notions of both revelation and theft, while the extension of digital multiplication into cloning remains contentious.

Stockham observes, ‘scanning is riddled with an internal contradiction: is it a close reading or a glance?’ In this exhibition she and over 25 UK and international artists, from recent graduates to more established names, explore the ways scans are a particular kind of translation that take many forms. Stockham herself will produce a limited edition print with the Bluecoat Print Studio, which will be on sale during the show.

Exhibition curated by Jo Stockham, Head of Printmaking at the Royal College of Art, London, and developed by the Bluecoat in partnership with the RCA Printmaking Department and the School of Art & Design, Liverpool John Moores University.

The Negligent Eye events

Sat 8 Mar 2pm
Exhibition tour
Join The Negligent Eye curator Jo Stockham and some of the artists.
Free, just turn up

Sat 22 Mar 2pm
Exhibition tour
Our Print Studio Manager Fran Disley joins printmaker Robin Tarbet in a tour of The Negligent Eye and his own work displayed in the upper Vide space.
Free, just turn up

Wed 26 Mar 10am
Jo Stockham:
The Negligent Eye talk
Curator Jo Stockham talks about the exhibition. Venue: John Lennon Art and Design Building, Liverpool School of Art and Design, Ducinfield Street, Liverpool, L3 5RD. Further information: 0151 904 1216.
Free, just turn up

Sat 12 & Sun 13 Apr 10am - 4pm
Scanning and Print Workshop with Dave Evans
Artist and RCA graduate Dave Evans leads this workshop exploring the possibilities of scanning photographic images and using halftones to create screenprints and woodblock prints.
Tickets: £130/£120

Sat 26 Apr 11am - 5.30pm
i-Scan
A day exploring some of the themes of The Negligent Eye through talks, discussions and demonstrations of scanning processes. Hear from artists and writers who creatively use scanning, find out about ‘digital dirt’ and ‘digital glitches’ and the impact of the scan in medicine and science, and take part in creative activities using printers.
Free, just turn up

Wed 7 May 6 - 7.30pm
Artist’s talk: Imogen Stidworthy
The artist talks about her work in The Negligent Eye.
Free, just turn up

Christiane Baumgartner, Selena L 2009, Woodcut on Kozo paper, Edition of 6
Paper: 140.0 x 240.0 cm / Image: 130.0 x 219.7 cm
Image courtesy the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London

Manleine Oliver, Fallen Durga, 2010, Twin walled plastic, 220 x 80 x 45cm