



Tess Hurrell – Commission proposal

I am interested in developing a body of work concerned with bright white light. White light has many connotations, from the sublime or divine, to that of surveillance or destruction. I will use the camera to freeze the emission of energy in the form of flare and sparkle, using photography as a framework and context to convey ideas concerned with; discovery, proof and understanding.

From discarded, cheap and unexpected objects I will create an alluring world of the *sparkle*. This will be achieved through a series of experiments, visual investigation and sculptural devises. The photographs will be shot in a studio space that will look more like a workshop, or make shift laboratory, using directed and controlled beams of light and reflections to create the work. I am interested in the transcendental properties of *shine* and *brightness* and the natural patterns of nature that is replicated with the use of artificial light.

The materials used to create these sculptural forms will be found, second hand objects and materials bought from budget £1 or craft shops. This is an important aspect to the work, as the final images will be concerned with the allure of the *sparkle*, against the simplicity or *everydayness* of the objects that have created it. I will be constructing a system of mirrors, glass, magnifying glasses and found objects that possess the required reflective quality to create the desired image. These will be set up in a visible system in order to produce the perfect sparkle, drawing in the viewer through visual intrigue. On a closer inspection one will see the 'workings' of the light source. The light emitted will be one that could be conceivably added to teeth, jewels, cars or borrowed from the stars, the signifier of desire or magic.

Shot in black and white these images will look back at the mediums history, as a recorder of fact, and provider of proof. Using simple aesthetics and technique I aim to draw together both the *glamorous* and the *matter of fact*.

Research will involve looking at the early history of photography, and the visual discoveries made through the camera, in the fields of science, as well as the magical or cosmic discoveries such as the *phenomenon* of materialisation. Practitioners such as Muybridge and Marey, and their recordings of time and motion; as well as more contemporary artists such as Roman Signer, Cai Guo-Qiang, Peter Fuschli and David Weiss, whom all work with the representation or transferral of energy. As a cultural reference point I will be looking at advertising images, cosmic imagery and vernacular photography. This series will be a unique recording of the experiments into the production of the sparkle flare.

Tess Hurrell - Curriculum Vitae

Education

2006 BA Hons Editorial Photography (First Class), University of Brighton (Brighton)

Selected Group & Solo Exhibitions

2008 *Pavilion Commissions Programme 2008*, National Media Museum (Bradford) – September 2008
Plat(t)form08, Fotomuseum Winterthur (Switzerland)

2007 *Pocko Photographers*, The Pool, Photomonth (London)
Chaology, Ogilvy space, (London)

2006 *Free Range*, Atlantis Gallery, Truman Brewery, Brick Lane (London)
Degree Show, University of Brighton (Brighton)
Student Awards 2006, AOP Gallery, (London)

2005 *Selection of Photography from University of Brighton 2nd year students*, North Laine Photography Gallery, Brighton, May 2005
We may shoot you, University of Brighton (Brighton)

Awards

2007 *ArtQuest Berlin residency*, Shortlisted

2006 *AOP Student Awards*, Merit Award
Photography Student of the Year Award, Nagoya University of Arts (Japan)

Residencies & Commissions

2008 *Pavilion Commissions Programme 2008*, Pavilion Commission (Leeds)

Published Work

2007 *Eternally infernal, Tess Hurrell*, by Alexandra Link, Sleek magazine, June issue
BANG, essay by Brian Dillon, Art Review, February issue
Photoworks magazine, essay by Gordon McDonald, November 2006 - April 2007

2006 *AOP Student Awards 2006*, AOP Image magazine, May issue

Collections

The Mag Collection, Paul Wilson (UK)