

JAMES BRIDLE: SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS 5 FEBRUARY - 15 APRIL 2015

11 December 2014

The Media Wall presents *Seamless Transitions*, a new commission by London based artist, writer and technologist James Bridle. His work engages with the invisible yet pervasive technologies that we encounter every day. Utilising a variety of platforms from software to social media, photography and installations, Bridle explores how technology both affects culture and reproduces and shapes political power.

Through this project, Bridle aims to shed light on the legal procedures and physical architecture of immigration and detention facilities, while provoking debates about nationality and citizenship at a point where these have become defining issues of our time.

In 2013 Bridle began collating witness accounts, planning applications and open source information as investigative means into the immigration and detention system. Working in collaboration with leading architectural visualisation company Picture Plane, 3D tours of three key sites have been created: Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow; the Special Immigration Appeals Court in the City of London, whose design is informed by the need to present evidence in secret; and the Inflight Jet Centre at Stansted Airport, a private terminal used after hours by the Home Office to deport rejected migrants.

The project raises important questions about UK immigration and deportation practices and the lack of public awareness around both the geographic and legal positions of the institutions and processes involved. Bridle asks how the experiences of asylum seekers can be understood when sites of immigration, judgment, detention and deportation remain invisible to the public and shrouded in secrecy.

Seamless Transitions also considers the ethics of using new imaging practices as a form of journalistic investigation and social responsibility. It asks if, in sites that aren't accessible to photography, other forms of image making can stand in as evidence to help raise government accountability.

James Bridle said: *I first became interested in issues of citizenship when I discovered, through my work on drone killings, that it is not considered a birth right, but a privilege. You can be born in the UK, but if the government chooses, it can remove your rights as a British citizen. People without citizenship and the protections associated with it are made extremely vulnerable, not least because, as in Hannah Arendt's famous phrase, Citizenship is the right to have rights. How we treat those with contested citizenships is one of the greatest tests of humanity, and how we choose to debate and discuss that treatment is one of the greatest tests of our democracy. The reality however, is that real debate becomes impossible when the process happens behind closed doors, in restricted areas, and in the middle of the night.*

Animation and stills for *Seamless Transitions* were created by Picture Plane.

The Photographers' Gallery
16-18 Ramillies Street
London W1F 7LW

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Notes for Editors

James Bridle

James Bridle is a writer and artist based in London. His artworks and installations have been exhibited in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia, and have been viewed by hundreds of thousands visitors online. He has been commissioned by organisations including Artangel, the Hayward Gallery, the Istanbul Design Biennial and the Corcoran Gallery, Washington DC, and been honoured by Ars Electronica and the Japan Media Festival, and shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize 2014. In 2011, he coined the term “New Aesthetic”, and his ongoing research around this subject has been featured and discussed worldwide. He writes regularly for the Observer and many other publications, on technology, literature and culture, and speaks at events worldwide. His work can be found at www.booktwo.org.

Picture Plane

Picture Plane is a London based digital imaging studio run by architects. The studio produces visualisations and animations that go beyond photorealistic representation to communicate the ambiguous and ethereal qualities of unbuilt spaces. For Seamless Transitions Picture Plane experimented with gaming and traditional 3D software to create hyper-real representations of the individual spaces. Camera techniques such as tracking shots and split screen views were also used to constrain the viewer’s experience. Picture Plane was established in 2008 by architects Joerg Majer and Maria Fulford. Collaborating with architects, artists, designers and engineers the studio treats the production of an image like a conversation to create a strong narrative behind each piece. A small team of talented visualizers all with a background in architecture, work alongside Joerg and Maria to produce a wide range of projects. www.pictureplane.co.uk

Artist Talk

Thu 5 Mar, 18.30

£7 / £4 concessions

Bridle discusses his new commission *Seamless Transitions*, and his use of 3D architectural visualisation to create photographic renderings of three UK politicised immigration sites where cameras are prohibited, in conversation with TPG Curator (Digital Programme) Katrina Sluis.

The Photographers’ Gallery

The Photographers’ Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK’s first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 - 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen month long redevelopment project, it reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers’ Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

Opening times: Monday - Saturday, 10:00 - 18:00, Thursdays, 10:00 - 20:00,

Sunday 11:30 - 18:00

Admission: Free

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW

Nearest London Underground Station: Oxford Circus

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W: thephotographersgallery.org.uk

For further press information and to request images please contact:

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Image 1

James Bridle

Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Inflite Jet Centre at Stansted Airport)

Animation by Picture Plane

Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 2

James Bridle

Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Inflite Jet Centre at Stansted Airport)

Animation by Picture Plane

Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 3

James Bridle

Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow)

Animation by Picture Plane

Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 4

James Bridle

Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Inflite Jet Centre at Stansted Airport)

Animation by Picture Plane

Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 5
James Bridle
Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Inflight Jet Centre at Stansted Airport)
Animation by Picture Plane
Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 6
James Bridle
Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Special Immigration Appeals Court in the City of London)
Animation by Picture Plane
Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 7
James Bridle
Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Special Immigration Appeals Court in the City of London)
Animation by Picture Plane
Courtesy of Picture Plane



Image 8
James Bridle
Video still from *Seamless Transitions* (Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre at Heathrow)
Animation by Picture Plane
Courtesy of Picture Plane

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Inbal Mizrahi on +44 (0)20 7087 9333 or email Inbal.mizrahi@tpg.org.uk**

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