

PRESENT TENSE FUTURE PERFECT? 24/07/21 - 07/08/21

Artcore Gallery
Kelly O'Brien
Thomas Wynne

PRESENT TENSE FUTURE PERFECT

ABOUT

Present Tense Future Perfect? Is an exhibition featuring the work of two of our artists in residence: Thomas Wynne and Kelly O'Brien.

In October 2020, Kelly O'Brien and Thomas Wynne undertook an artist residency with Artcore for a duration of two months titled Present Tense Future Perfect? Through this residency, we wanted to give the artists an opportunity to make new work dealing with the tensions caused by current uncertainties, whilst looking forward to a brighter future.

Kelly O'Brien is a Midlands-based artist with a background in documentary photography. The artist describes her working process as a collaboration between photography and clairvoyance to uncover information about her estranged and deceased father. Influenced by subjective-truth, Spiritualist churches and online clairvoyants, Kelly constructs a narrative around her father, a story that would otherwise cease to exist.

Thomas Wynne is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Derby. As part of his residency with Artcore, the artist has considered the human intention to inhabit another planet, particularly Mars. Through his practice, Wynne draws similarities between the duration of the COVID pandemic and the hypothetical 9-month manned mission to Mars.

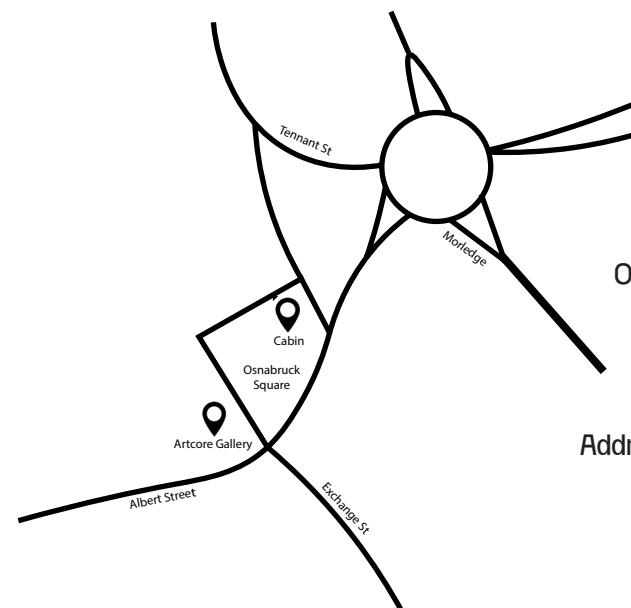
Within this exhibition, both artists use a wide range of materials and techniques to construct their visual frameworks. These include photography, sculpture, found objects, archival images, video, automated writing, psychic drawing and installation.

On until Saturday 7 August 2021.

INFO

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity based in Derby, UK, and is home to Artcore Gallery, studios and work spaces as well as a shop and cafe. A vibrant hub for commissioning, production, presentation and debate, we offer opportunities for diverse audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion.

Here at Artcore Gallery we believe that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places. We have an extensive exhibition and residency programme which helps support early, mid-career and established artists to create work which deals with pressing social, political and environmental issues.



Visit Us

Open Monday - Saturday
11am - 5pm.

Admission: FREE

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Kelly O'Brien
Thomas Wynne



The indiscernibility of fact and fiction can also be applied when visualising 'unknown' territories, such as planets, alternative universes and certain areas of Earth. In 1988, Donna Haraway recognised that though it is necessary to critique objectivity, proceeding too far down the path of 'radical social constructivism' can forgo the need to acknowledge real, shared experience.³ For example, environmental concerns such as global warming and climate change.

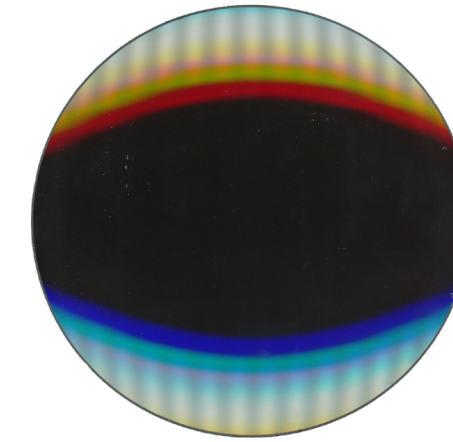
This leads onto the work of Thomas Wynne, whose series of work for *Present Tense Future Perfect* explores the human intention to inhabit another planet, stemming from the fact that we are ruining our own. When Wynne began his residency with Artcore, the COVID-19 pandemic had been affecting the world for a total of nine months; the artist drew similarities with the proposed length of a manned mission to Mars, which would also take a total of nine months. The artist states that for both of these journeys, stepping into a new world is pertinent.

Wynne is further interested in how cinema and other aspects of the culture industry has influenced our idea of inhabiting other planets, as well as the performativity of space missions. For this, Wynne has explored a huge variety of avenues: the Claude Glass; the Rolls Royce rocket development archive, Greek mythology and the use of Greek heroes' names in the titles of space missions; bees – particularly their vital role in pollination and sustaining human life; the Rolls-Royce rocket development archive from the 1950s to the 1970s; and how to make fire, both referencing Prometheus stealing fire to give to man, and the realisation that this is probably an essential for the continuation of human life on another planet.

Artists often show us ways of exploring uncharted territories, so let us ask what shapes our realities, past, present and future?

Aisling Ward, Assistant Curator

THOMAS WYNNE Biography



Thomas Wynne is a multi-disciplinary artist, photographer and educator based in the Midlands, UK. In 2017, he achieved a first class honours BA in Photography from Middlesex University London, and is due to complete his MA in Film and Photography at the University of Derby in 2021.

Thomas has participated in the Parallel Intersection programme where he exhibited internationally in Lodz, Zagreb, and Lisbon and was subsequently awarded the Parallel Award. His latest work with Parallel has gone on to be published by The Eyes which was released in Arles, France earlier this year.

He has also participated in the East Meets West programme (GRAIN Projects, FORMAT) and was awarded the New Art West Midlands bursary and the FORMAT Portfolio reviews award in 2020. Thomas has exhibited nationally at Photo London 2019 (Somerset House), Quad Gallery Derby, Derby Photo Fringe, BLOC projects Sheffield, Argentea Gallery and Artefact Projects Birmingham amongst others. He has also produced editorial commissions and front cover portraiture works for FT Weekend Magazine.

KELLY O'BRIEN

1. Nele Wynants ed., *When Fact is Fiction: Documentary Art in the Post-Truth Era*, 2020.
2. Erika Balsom, 'The Reality-Based Community', *e-flux journal* 2017.

Kelly O'Brien's series of work for *Present Tense Future Perfect* could be described as a construction of contingent truths, where the artist welcomes both factual and speculative thinking as a way to trace an impression of her estranged and deceased father. Instead of adhering to a one-dimensional, relative notion of truth, O'Brien asks how certain stories can represent those worlds that we are yet to know and understand.

Writer Nele Wynants also exemplifies the value of blurred boundaries between fact and fiction in her introduction to *When Fact is Fiction: Documentary Art in the Post-Truth Era*. Through questioning the limitations of binary narratives, the writer reveals how imagination can be used as a tool to navigate uncertain futures:

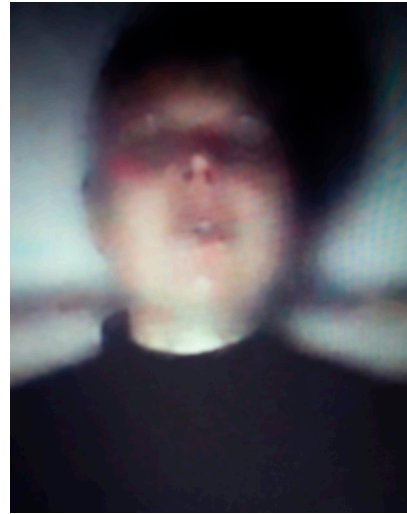
Fiction pulls us into the world of the possible, the thinkable, and the speculative...thinking outside the box and exploring new territories.'

Whilst Wynants critiques the arrogance of a singular truth, asserting the indiscernibility of fact and fiction can also cause anxiety and doubt. With this in mind, we could potentially explore facticity through the notion of care, for certain experiences within this world require our care and comfort more than our suspicions.² Notions surrounding care-based practice and subjective-truth are thoroughly explored in the work of O'Brien and her ongoing collaboration with Clairvoyants. In a talk with Artcore earlier this year, O'Brien described the practice of Clairvoyance as a 'soothing balm,' used often to comfort anxieties surrounding the death of a loved one.

Both Wynants and O'Brien are interested in the real and the non-real, and question why we have to choose between rational and irrational, when we can believe in both? Traces of actuality provides one way that we can begin to re-establish the reality of experience, whilst departures from objective reality are often enacted in order to lead back to truth.

Aisling Ward, Assistant Curator

KELLY O'BRIEN Biography



Kelly O'Brien is an artist and photographer from Derby, UK. Her practice draws on ideas around memory, working with a methodology that allows her to develop visual transformation and storytelling through historical narrative and theory. She is concerned with the photographic relationship to absence, investigating how invisibility, immateriality and memory can be utilised as tools of perception. Her practice explores how the expanding modes of documentary photography can be employed to visually manifest and represent the unrepresentable.

Her Ongoing work "Are You There?" has won the Contemporary Photography Award from the Urbanautica Institute in Italy (2019) and has been exhibited internationally including - Format Photo Festival (UK), Bristol Photo Festival (UK), Odesa International Festival of Contemporary Photography (Ukraine), The Pingyao International Photography Festival (China) and Ffotogallery Cardiff (UK).

Kelly's work has been published in Source Photographic Review, Loupe Photography Magazine, Le Monde, Urbanautica, The British Journal of Photography and The Guardian.