

Monumental Portraits of the Working People of Somerset

Continuing on with the core research question from his prior AHRC Creative Research Fellowship, Senior Research Fellow Terry Flaxton has just been awarded the funds from the Heritage Lottery fund to create 'Monumental Portraits of the working people of Somerset'.

This work like the others in his high resolution portraits series (already shot in China, America, Italy and the UK and includes Portraits of the University of Bristol's Centenary was one of the seven already accomplished and can be found here: [Centenary Portraits](#)) investigates the effects of increased resolution upon the audience and the creators working with new digital technologies and the aesthetics encoded within newly developing Digital Cinematographic forms.

Each of the previous projects has been shot at the highest resolution possible and in each case the subjects have been displayed at life-size – this required 20 foot x 10 foot projection and during the exhibition in London in December of Terry's research work (a collaboration between University of Bristol and University of Westminster) 6 were displayed continuously looped for two weeks in a 60 foot triptych.

The current project requires the screen to be turned upon its side so that each person is displayed 20 foot high – hence the title 'Monumental Portraits'. This is also the first in a series which is hoped to include a project for the 2012 Olympics at much larger size and resolution on the side of one of the Stadiums.

The traditional rural industries of Somerset are to be documented and recorded by Visualfields thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The still-yet-moving-image-portraits of local craftspeople involved in traditional skills will be captured this summer and exhibited on large screens at the Museum of Bath at Work during July September and Glastonbury Abbey between October to December this year. Plans for exhibitions in Bristol and London in 2012 are currently being negotiated.

Oral histories of the 'Portraitees' will also be recorded at the Engine Rooms in Bridgwater by volunteers, who will receive professional training supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund award. These histories will provide added local interest in the exhibition.

Terry's current work as a AHRC Knowledge Transfer Fellow delivers to the Creative Industries of the South West information on data capture, handling and exhibition and recently included a symposium organised with departmental colleague Dr Richard Misek. The intent was to try to develop a language between industry professionals and Academics to theorise the practice of high-resolution image capture and display in a way that is approachable by the contemporary audience. The symposium relates centrally to Terry's core research question and can be found online here: [The Look from capture to Display - Digital Cinema Aesthetics and Workflows](#)

QUOTE: 'As yet people haven't really experienced the effect of the resolutions that we are capable of. HD is a small gesture towards what we can actually now accomplish at the higher end of this developing technology which also encompasses Higher Dynamic Range Capture and Display. The portraits projects aims to show people the effect of this new technology as well as delivering the sense that in a crowded, busy world, the community, wherever it is to be found, is the really important base of culture'.

Links:

Centenary Portraits:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary/look/art/portraits/portraits-film.html>

The Look from capture to Display - Digital Cinema Aesthetics and Workflows:

<http://www.dshed.net/look>