The annual Richard Gregory Lecture

We are delighted Luke Jerram will be giving this year’s Richard Gregory Lecture, “Eye, Brain and Professor of Neuropsychology. He is also the inspiration behind the formation of Bristol Vision Institute.

Luke’s first artwork “Retinal Memory Illusion” inspired by Richard Gregory book "Eye and Brain". During the lecture, he will talk through this principle and inspiration behind many of his artworks. Visual Illusions and the exploration of visual perception continue to be a part of Luke’s practice and he will share photos, films and tell stories about his artworks, some of which have never been made public before.

Booking is mandatory and space is limited. Please book your ticket bristol.ac.uk/richard-gregory-lecture

The annual Richard Gregory Lecture

10th to 25th November 2010

13th July to 25th November 2018

Open 10am to 4:30pm, 7 days a week, including bank holidays

Admission £5.50

Inclusion 50p gift aid donation

Free to under 18s, Friends of the Garden and all University of Bristol staff and students.

Welcome to the Impossible Garden

What you are about to experience is the culmination of an exciting collaboration between Bristol Vision Institute, artist Luke Jerram and the University’s Botanic Garden. The Impossible Garden uses sculptural installations to spark debate about how we see, and how visual impairments can affect our perception of the world around us.

"The collaboration with Luke is a fantastic opportunity for us to explore the power of visual illusions. Understanding how they work can tell us about the properties and limitations of our visual system."

Professor David Bullock
Director of Bristol Vision Institute

"Light is probably the most important sense with which we encounter any garden, and he best gardens are perceptions to give an effect that they are larger than they actually are. Optical illusions are surprisingly common in the natural world. Whether you’re attracting pollinators or designing a vista, the ability to use colour, camouflage and perspective is vital to plants and gardeners alike."

Nick Wray
Botanic Garden Curator

"The residency led to Luke’s unique idea of the Impossible Garden, a set of experimental sculptural artworks, inspired by visual phenomena he experienced as part of his residency. Whilst many of the artworks are fun to engage with, the pieces also reveal the processes and limitations of vision."

Rebecca Judd
Arts Manager at Bristol Vision Institute

"I hope the public will enjoy and be inspired by our project which to explore any garden and the best gardens use perspective to give an effect that they are larger than they actually are. Optical illusions are surprisingly common in the natural world. Whether you’re attracting pollinators or designing a vista, the ability to use colour, camouflage and perspective is vital to plants and gardeners alike."

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Impossible Garden exhibits

For each exhibit, Luke Jerram shares the inspiration behind each artwork, as a comment from a vision research perspective.

**SHRINKING VIOLET**

Luke: An illusion in creating imagery and objects from pixel. I'm interested how this object looks, and it is understood, from different distance.

- There are lots to vision and our ability are usually the cut of this. We view the girl from further away we are unable to see the individual blocks that form this image. It is only as we move closer we can see the individual blocks and that there is something unusual about the sculpture.

**PIxEL GIRL**

Luke: This way the affects of the screen pixel seem to distort our sense of the image. We feel distant.

- Objects that are further away like a beach, have an expected size. The brain then uses the expected size of an object and actual size to infer the position in the image.

- When objects are not their expected size, this cause distortions in perspective.

- We are used to glues in our digital vision - caused by poor channel perception of building problems. Block or lines in a video appear in the wrong position. This effect brings the phenomenon to be in a 3D physical entity you can touch and on.

**SHRINKING VIOLET**

Luke: Artworks vary with both really there! Our ability to perceive this doorway take us? Just filters to the world. Where does this doorway take us? First, let's look at what we are seeing.

- Most humans. So, a bird, a flower in the landscape, I'm interested how this object looks, and it is understood, from different distance.

- Animals use optical effects to attract other species to understand the vision of other species to understand their colours, but their minds make different illusory forms.

- Illusions are a guide to how visual systems can be fooled.

- Perception is not reality, and conditions, allow sensible 'short-cuts' that, under most result, all visual systems take the position in the image.

- Together these cues give us a strong sense of the image being real even if it isn't.

- Semantic conditions and prior knowledge.

**LANDSCAPE**

Luke: A six-sided mirrored landscape to contemplate. Even in a flat image these cues do not give the feelings of the landscape to contemplate.

**MOTHER AND SON**

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