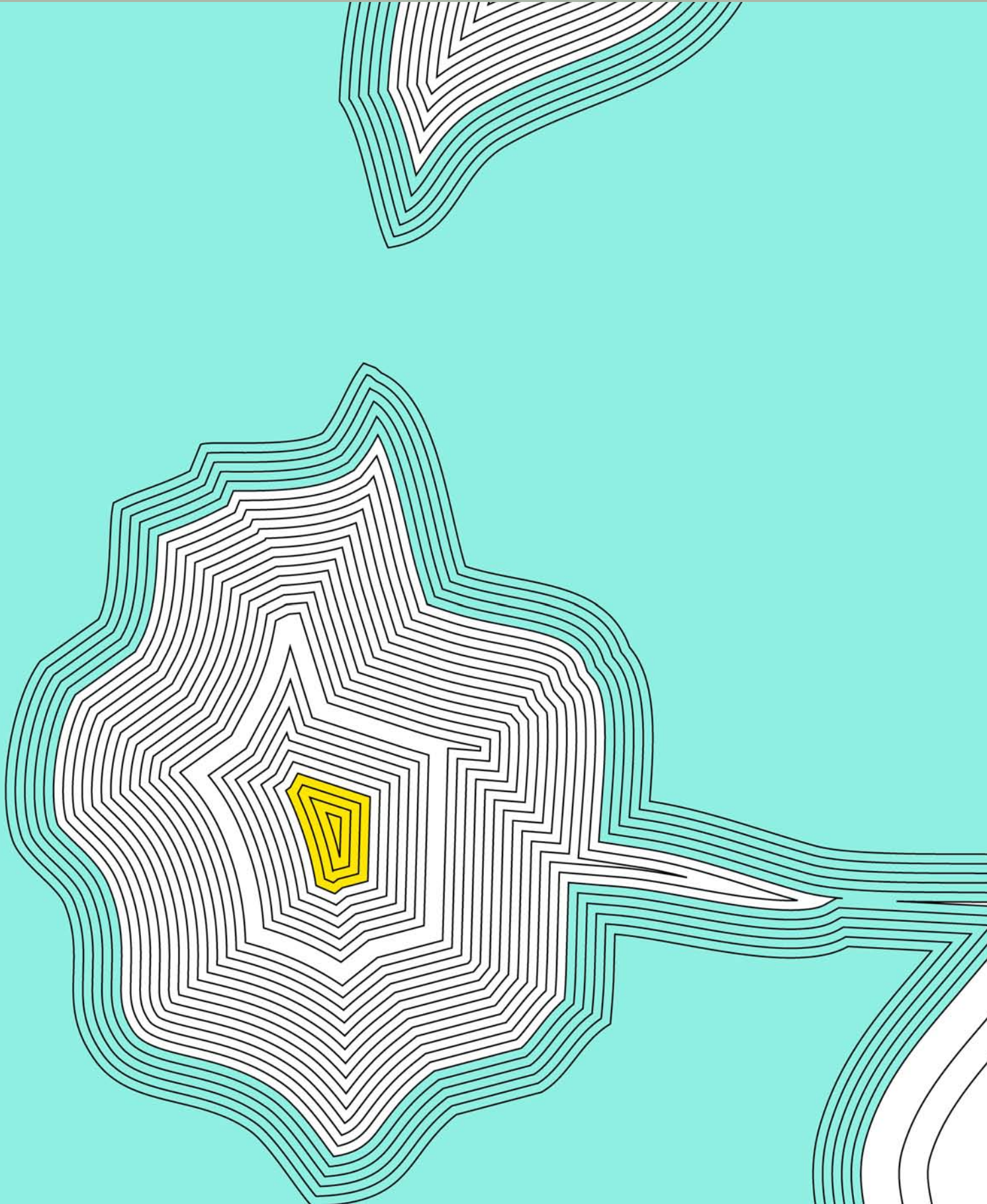


Summer 2007



A whole new world...

From the experiences of women in the magazine industry of the 1920s and 1930s to capturing the people of St Ives on video, Fiona Hackney believes in engaging with the present to ask different questions of the past. Here she talks to Ian McAllister about the development of her research interests



Above: Fiona Hackney, course leader for UCF's PgDip/MA 20th Century Art & Design: Histories & Theories.

Cover image: detail from *Design Theft*, a digitally captured and reworked 1820's ceramic chinoiserie pattern by Katie Bunnell, Automatic 3D Digital Production Research Cluster, 2007.

I lead the PgDip/MA course in 20th Century Art & Design: History & Theories, and am involved in several different research topics.

I have a particular interest in print culture and gender and my doctoral thesis is a study of women's commercial magazines in the 1920s and 1930s. This reflects my interest in social, cultural and oral history, which has evolved over my career.

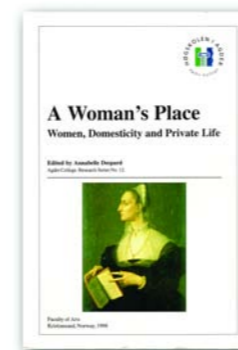
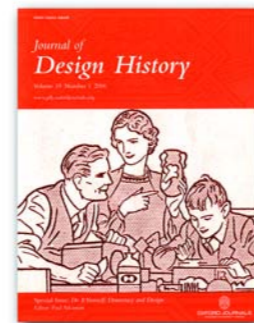
This developed out of an earlier piece of research I did during my MA at the Royal College of Art. I'd looked at the work of the Curwen Press in the 1920s and 1930s, interviewing some of the printers from that time. It was an era when commercial art began to emerge in Britain and artists worked as illustrators, book-jacket designers and jobbing printers.

This piece of work fuelled my curiosity about the period, as well as in print matter and advertising, but I wanted to do more research into gender and to pursue this within a history department.

I went on to undertake a PhD at Goldsmiths in order to work with Sally Alexander, Professor of Modern History. Sally has a variety of research interests including the history of women, work and psychoanalysis, as well as sharing my interest in oral history. She sees history as a living, vibrant and evolving thing and not just something that you find in books.

My research concerns a study of women's magazines from the inter-war years, such as *Women's Weekly*, *Woman* and *Modern Woman*. It has involved interviewing individuals and groups of women who worked on the publications or who simply had an interest in reading them, and has proved an enjoyable and challenging experience.

The research has a number of strands. It looks at the readers, the magazines themselves (such as the composition, their style and content) and the production side, which centres on areas such as the journalism, advertising and printing, etc. It's been very



Articles by Fiona Hackney have appeared in a number of publications including (above) *A Woman's Place: Women Domesticity and Private Life*, (Kristiansand, Agder College 1998); (left) the *Journal of Design History* and *The Culture of Sewing: Gender, Consumption and Home Dressmaking* (Oxford, Berg 1999).

interesting to see the tensions that existed at the time and the changing roles of women in society.

I want to continue to write and publish around this area. I've contributed to a number journals and publications, including an article for the *Journal of Design History*, entitled 'Use Your Hands for Happiness: Home Craft and Make-do-and-Mend in British Women's Magazines in the 1920s and 1930s'. This special issue of the journal was published to coincide with the exhibition *Do It Yourself: Democracy and Design*, curated by Paul Atkinson. The exhibition covered a period of some three centuries, and was researched and written by a series of established and respected design historians across the UK and the US. The show toured the UK last year before travelling on to New York.

I'm also currently developing an oral history project with Tate St Ives, Porthmeor Studios and the Leach Pottery, looking at the relationship between St Ives' past and its present.

Of course, research is also about sharing ideas and I think it's important to engage with the wider international academic community. To this end, I've given a number of papers at conferences in the UK and abroad, most recently at a conference in Delaware in the US, where I was invited speak on print culture.

Research is vitally important and I know that it refreshes and invigorates my teaching. There are always issues about time and finances, but I feel it's important that institutions support staff wherever they can.

Jeremy Tridgell, lecturer on BA(Hons) Graphic Design, will be reporting on the launch of the website www.ecoloqo.net at the Education for Sustainable Development conference in Bradford in July. The site, which is opensource and user-driven, aims to be a great tool for design, relying on users to create a 'folksonomy' of sustainability.

Serena Rodgers, senior lecturer on MA Interactive Art & Design, and BA(Hons) Illustration, recently completed *All Over Blue*, a 12-minute abstract animated film in collaboration with composer Jim Aitchison and the Terry Frost Estate. This modernist abstract interpretation of Jim Aitchison's score, which is derived from Terry Frost's painting 'Maritime Blues', will screen in New York to a live performance of the music by pianist Andrew Russo.

Serena is also working with AV artists, Ben Mason (Red Dog) and Nick Hillel (Yeast) on an audiovisual interpretation of Tom Middleton's latest LP 'Lifetracks', which will be shown at the National Film Theatre in London on 29-30 June.

Mark Douglas, senior lecturer on BA(Hons) Film Studies, has recently published an essay 'Queer Bedfellows: William Blake and Derek Jarman' as part of *Blake, Modernity and Popular Culture*, edited by Steve Clark and Jason Whittaker (Palgrave, 2007). In March, Mark also presented a paper on Fatih Akin and the Cinema of Migrancy at the Globalisation and Writing Conference at Bath Spa University.

A poem by Creative Advertising lecturer **Alice Taylor** (who writes as Alice Kavounas) entitled, 'The Man in the Lacoste Shirt', was broadcast on Poetica on Australian radio in February. Poetica is an ABC programme dedicated to the performance of poetry. Poems are downloadable as podcasts at www.abc.net.au/m

Jason Cleverly, course leader in Contemporary Crafts, has developed an interactive installation for Truro Museum and Art Gallery that is designed help visitors to explore and reflect upon works of art and decorative art. The installation called *Lineamentum: A Drawing Machine*, is part of programme of work undertaken in collaboration with the Work, Interaction and Technology research group at King's College London.

Autonomic: 3D Digital Production Research

In March this year the research cluster joined forces with Metropolitan Works in London to present Digital Explorers II, a series of evening events and an exhibition of digital design research. It proved a great success, with large audiences for presentations and demonstrations and excellent media coverage for the Autonomic team in Crafts and Icon magazines and other national titles.

Recent visitors to the Tremough research studio have included the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, and Phillip Delamore, research fellow at the London College of Fashion.

The cluster has continued to be represented at a number of conferences and exhibitions including: 'NorDes' Stockholm, 28 May, www.nordes.org; 'Atoms to Art' 26 June, www.atomstoart.org.uk; 'New Craft Future Voices', Dundee, 4 July <http://newcraftfuturevoices.com> and 'Firing Thoughts' 17 October www.firingthoughts.co.uk.

A bursaried MPhil/PhD studentship commencing September 2007 is currently being offered by the cluster. For more details about events and studentship opportunities, please visit the Autonomic website www.autonomic.org.uk.

RANE: Research in Art, Nature & Environment

The cluster, with help from staff and volunteers, organised a day of positive action in May at Tremough Campus aimed at raising awareness of climate change. The day, which included a series of lectures and

films, saw the Stannery taken over with stalls and displays giving advice and information about the problems of global warming. A competition for students to produce work in response to climate issues prompted over 70 entries with Principal Alan Livingston presenting the winners with over £1,500 in prize money on the day. A video of the day's events can be seen at www.rane-research.org and a small publication documenting the day's events will be distributed to staff in July.

In April, RANE research assistant Robin Hawes presented a paper entitled 'Where Outside Ends and I Begin: An Artist's Perspective' at the annual Philosophy Conference at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Robin's collaborative research project 'Private View: The Nature of Visual Process' will be appearing as part of *Participation* at the Falmouth Arts Centre in October.

IREs: Interactive Art & Design

The iRes research cluster is collaborating with Tate Modern on the 'Disrupting Narratives' symposium to be held at Tate Modern on 13 July. This international event brings together some of the world's leading media artists, theorists and researchers to explore real-time interaction in electronic media. Developed in collaboration with Tate Modern, contributors include Mark Amerika, Alexander R Galloway, Andrea Zapp, Kelli Dipple, Kate Rich and Paul Sermon. Further information can be found at www.ires.org.uk.

Keynote speaker at the symposium, Mark Amerika, joins iRes as international visiting professor for Summer 2007. Mark has been named a "Time Magazine 100

Innovator" and has had four retrospectives of his digital art work. In Spring 2000, his *GRAMMATRON* was selected as one of the first works of internet art to be exhibited at the prestigious Whitney Biennial of American Art. A professor of Art and Art History at the University of Colorado, his most recent book, *META/DATA: A Digital Poetics*, has just been published by the MIT Press. During his residency, Mark will begin work on a new project called 'Foreign Film'. The film is being made using a Nokia N95 mobile phone and is initially being sponsored by Tate Modern and iRes.

LTRC: Learning & Teaching Research Centre

The research centre will be presenting a paper at the ELIA conference in Brighton in July entitled 'Talkback: the student experience of learning through verbal feedback in the studio crit'. John Butcher is presenting a paper entitled 'Authentic Partnerships in Higher Education: undergraduate learning from the *Sorrell Young Designer* Project' at the British Educational Research Association conference in London in September.

A successful bid has been made for a research award from the Higher Education Academy's ADM Subject Centre and Foundation Degrees Forward, for a project entitled 'Work based learning for art, design and media'. This is a collaborative project with Arts Institute Bournemouth, Bath Spa University and Plymouth College of Art and Design.

Daphne Hampton, from London College of Communication, reviewed her research into strategic approaches to tutoring and mentoring policy and practice, at a research seminar hosted by LTRC on 28 June.



This newsletter is produced by the RANE Research Cluster. If you have suggestions or copy for the next issue, contact Dr Daro Montag (daro@falmouth.ac.uk) or Robin Hawes (robin.hawes@falmouth.ac.uk). Profile photograph by Robin Hawes. Editing courtesy of the Professional Writing Department at University College Falmouth. Printed by R. Booth Ltd, Mabe Burnthouse, Cornwall.