

The Blind

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The Blind

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Images by the Institute of Critical Zoologists



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The Editor to the Reader

Foreword 6: Substance and Appearance, As If...

by Alfredo Cramerotti

The environment we currently inhabit is an open field where everyone is a knowledge-gatherer. As curator and editor, I am at the forefront of a pressing problem: how to select knowledge and organize its gathering and dissemination?

This question is fundamental, not only for visual arts and media professionals, but for anyone with access to technology. The exchange between gatherer, spectator and the subject of observation has never been more complex, requiring an aesthetic and emotional response in addition to intellect, discretion and rigor.

The gatherer, the spectator and the subject become participants of narratives that are exposed. When witnessing the different stages of this process each one of these actors, consciously or not, becomes part of an information chain, of a sequence of data and information that generates further knowledge and investigation; whether or not their contribution is authentic or contrived.

Any cultural proposition should allow its spectators and users a choice of acceptance and refusal. It should present neither an accepted worldview nor an alternative one but, rather, facilitate the beholder in asking relevant questions on any matter.

The relationship between man and nature, then, must also be abstracted and questioned, creating opportunities to learn more about ecological, geopolitical, scientific and social issues - not through one-way education but through self-questioning and a determination to ask oneself questions about the (visual) information received.

My work, and before me that of the artist, is to create situations, stories and stimuli that unsettle a complacent acceptance of received information about what is 'out there' and provoke the will to question. What matters most in this work is the ongoing interrogation between what is visible and what is conceived, what can be represented and what is only imaginable.

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ICZ RESEARCH REPORT, 2007, No. 226
TB081, Y.Shinko, 2007.11.029

FIELD TEST REPORT The Blind in the field

Y.Shinko

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The Blind, a visual camouflage system, provides camouflage in the visual spectrum. It represents a significant improvement for the concealment of zoologists whilst observing animals in the field. Thousands of light receiving segmented pixels and sending segmented pixels are affixed to the surface cloak. Each receiving segmented pixel receives colored light from the background of the zoologist. Each receiving segmented pixel has a lens such that the light incident upon it is segmented to form focal points along a focal curve (or plane) according to the light's incident trajectory. In a first embodiment, this incident light is channeled by fiber optics to the side of the zoologist which is opposite to each respective incident light segment. The light which was incident on a first side of the zoologist traveling at a series of respective trajectories is thus redirected and exists on at least one second side of the zoologist according to its original trajectory. In a second embodiment, this incident light is segmented according to trajectory, and detected electronically by photo diodes. It is then electronically reproduced on at least one second side of the object by arrayed LEDs. In this manner, incident light is reproduced as exiting light which mimics trajectory, color, and intensity such that an animal can "see through" the zoologist to the background. On both embodiments, this process is repeated many times, in segmented pixel arrays, such that an animal looking at the zoologist from any perspective actually "sees the background" of the object corresponding to the observer's perspective. The zoologist thus has been rendered "invisible" to the animal.

As previous tests has shown, The Blind's degrees of "invisibility" varies in accordance to the strength of available sunlight. Improvements were made to the photo diodes to increase the sensitivity and response to ambient light. These improvements are tested and documented in this report.

