

LOOK BOTH WAYS: A COLLABORATION OF ART AND SCIENCE

Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly

Far from fitting into a category, Connolly & Cleary's work is constantly evolving in harmony with their lives, their environment and new technologies. The dynamic architecture of their approach allows them to mingle events from their daily life with the fiction of their art. Their work is often inspired by fundamental questions of perception, relationships between movement, sounds, forms and colours



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A team of researchers, including Dr. David Monaghan, Prof Noel O'Connor and Dr. Philip Kelly, from Insight in DCU began collaborating with Anne and Denis in 2011. From humble beginnings and email debates, regarding the definitions of science and art, the interactions and crossovers within the fields of art, design and science, came many highly successful Art/Science projects

THE MYSTERY OF THE SLANTING CAR AND THE REAL TIME ROLLING SHUTTER

THE MYSTERY OF THE SLANTING CAR

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1. A Photograph

In this early photograph by Jacques Henri Lartigue, time and space interact in a surprising way. The racing car is tilting forward while the pedestrians are tilting backwards. How is this expression of movement possible? Was it a trick?

The answer we find in the nature of Lartigue's camera, which exposed the photograph using a 'rolling shutter', a sort of curtain with a slit in it, which passed over the photographic plate behind it, from left to right or - in this case - from bottom to top.

Lartigue took his photograph from a moving vehicle: as his rolling shutter moved up, the car he was in was moving forward. The intersection of the vertical movement of the shutter and the horizontal movement of the vehicle given the first distortion.

But the racing car is moving too, faster than the vehicle from which Lartigue is taking his photograph. As the rolling shutter moved up, the car slipped ahead to the right, even as the pedestrians and the landscape slipped away to the left.

But there was a further mystery: When we tried to correct the distortion of the car, we discovered that the wheel and the fuel tank (with the number 6) seemed to have different degrees of distortion. How is this possible?

Perhaps the car itself was not straight? When we looked at another photograph of a 1912 racing car, the fuel tank and wheel appeared to be parallel. However the underside of the chassis is not straight, but tilted forward...

Our own theory is that the racing car was slowing down or braking - as Lartigue took his photo, which would mean that the image of the car should tilt less at the top than at the bottom.

The corrected image should therefore look something like this.

Lartigue's photograph allows us to see the passage of time as geometry: we begin to understand that time is a dimension like any other, another axis against which we measure movement and change.

This little investigation afforded us a delightful bridge between our commonplace world and the universe in which Einstein first introduced us in his General Theory of Relativity - published seven years before Lartigue snapped his sporting car - where what is seen depends as much on the position of the observer as on the nature of the observed.

To return to our starting point: this is what Lartigue's photograph might have looked like if he had turned his camera on its side (horizontal scan, right to left)

Photographie de Jacques Henri Lartigue, 1912

Real Time Rolling Shutter

Cleary Connolly present

LOOK BOTH WAYS

Real Time Rolling Shutter is a new installation by Cleary Connolly made with the collaboration of CLARITY as part of their 'Look Both Ways' commission for RPA, and inaugurated in August 2012 as part of the Hall of Mirrors show at Limerick City Gallery of Art. Inspired by a 100 year old photograph by Jacques Henri Lartigue, the installation creates a live feed of mirror-like 'rolling-shutter' video, developing from bottom to top over several seconds. Time is expressed as a distortion and, as in a foreground hall of mirrors, the experience is as much fun as it is challenging.

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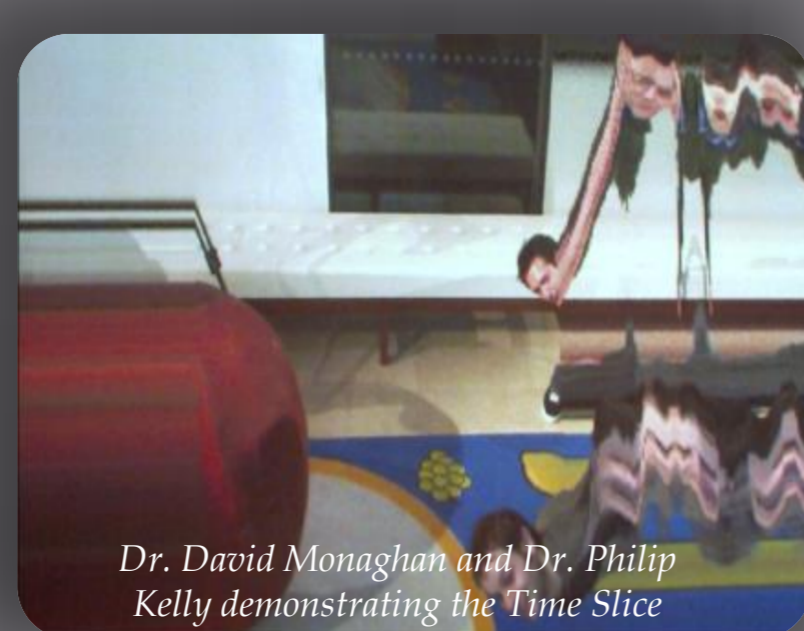
Dublin Contemporary was a major art show that ran in Dublin in 2011 and attracted over 120,000 visitors



The Real Time Rolling Shutter was displayed at the Irish Cultural heritage Centre in Paris



The Hall of Mirror exhibition has attracted over 30,000 visitors



The Real Time Rolling Shutter was displayed during the Building Europe festival in Paris and at the European Council open day in Brussels

