

Title: Interference 1 and Interference II

Author: Debra Livingston

Photographs printed on archival continual tone Giclee prints overlaid with direct printed transparent Crystal Digital Acrylic Optix

Research Background

'Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s explored the visual impact that the psychedelic culture of the 1960s and earlier has had on an impressive assortment of artists working over the past five decades' (Oettinger in Ruben 2010: 8). In the 1960s artists exploited the fallibility of the eye to challenge our perceptions of the world through the visions of the Op Art movement, as such the 'The Responsive Eye' was an important exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1965 brought this movement to the world's attention in an era of global social and technological change.

Research Contribution

The strong links between photography and scientific thinking about optics and the visual meant the camera functioned to form an image that came to be understood as casting visual perception as the process that converts the retinal image into a percept of the world beyond the eyes. My work references the physical laws of light and optics, visual phenomena and the principles of perception to test our visual experience by combining moiré patterns to produce phenomena known as interference. My work challenges ideas about how human perception affects our understanding of the world, through exploring the 1960s Op art movement where artists exploited the fallibility of the eye to challenge our visions of interaction between illusion and picture plane, between understanding and seeing.

Research Significance

The two digital works 'Light Interference # 1 and II' by Debra Livingston questions the psychological study of visual perception. The following indicators attest the work's value: selection of the works for inclusion in the Squeeze exhibition, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast, and both were purchased by a patron of the gallery for their private art collection.

References:

Ruben D. 2010. Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s. MIT Press