

ALLEN & OVERY

art does it

identity | reflection | change

2006 - 2007

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For more information about Artbeat and the
Scholarship Programme, please visit
www.allenoverly.com/artbeat

In 2003, Allen & Overy teamed up with three acclaimed professional artists and Tower Hamlets secondary schools to launch the Artbeat community arts initiative with the aim of forging a new bond between Allen & Overy and the local community. We hoped that by inviting local students into Allen & Overy's offices and commissioning them to create art for display we would break down some of the barriers between our two communities and give the students opportunities they may not otherwise have had. Each year, with the help of the Artbeat artists, we aim to challenge the students' perceptions and experiences by encouraging them to work with new concepts and new media under expert tuition. We have been consistently delighted with the enthusiastic response of the students and the results continually surpass our expectations.

In the past four years, not only have the students produced an exciting collection of thought-provoking work in diverse media including textiles, stained glass, painting, drawing, lithographs, stone carving, digital photography and sculpture, but the Artbeat initiative itself has grown in ways we could not have imagined in 2003.

- In 2005, the Artbeat mentoring and scholarship programme was launched. The programme is open to all past and present Artbeat students and each participant receives one-on-one mentoring from A&O staff in completing application forms and preparing for interviews as well as the opportunity to apply for a £5,000 Artbeat Scholarship to help fund their arts education after they leave school.
- Also in 2005, Artbeat artist Vanda Harvey led a special Artbeat summer illustration project through which, inspired by artists from Miró to Howard Hodgkin, students from Morpeth Secondary School created illustrations for Allen & Overy's 75th Anniversary book.
- Several Artbeat students have undertaken work placements in Allen & Overy's legal departments as well as our internal communications department where they helped to produce an edition of the global newsletter.
- Following invitations from the Canary Wharf Group and the Spitalfield Corporation, Artbeat artwork has been publicly exhibited in the Canary Wharf window galleries and at the opening of the Bishops Square development.
- With the opening of our new flagship office at Bishops Square, Spitalfields, Artbeat has been given both a new home and a new audience in the heart of the City of London.

- Former Artbeat artists Jason Bruges and Rob Olins were commissioned to produce site-specific installations for the main atria at Bishops Square.
- Takaiya McGhie, an Artbeat student from Bethnal Green Technology College, successfully applied for a work placement with Jason Bruges.

Most importantly, we continue to facilitate workshops in which students have the opportunity to learn new skills from specialists.

The move to the new offices has challenged Allen & Overy to consider its identity and to reflect on the changes that have taken place since its beginning 75 years ago. The concepts of identity, reflection and change are brought together in this year's Artbeat projects. During the projects, students at our regular Artbeat partner schools explored the following unfamiliar and innovative media under the expert guidance of our enthusiastic and dedicated artists:

Identity

Shelley Wilson encouraged the students of Morpeth Secondary School to portray their identity through both clay sculpture and textile work.

Reflection

Ian Welsh challenged the students of Bethnal Green Technology College to experiment with the possibilities of mirror-polished aluminium in a personal response to the word "Reflection".

The Changing Image

Matthew Andrews introduced the students at Tower Hamlets College to lenticulars – a high technology medium based on century-old techniques in which multiple photographs are interlaced to create an intriguing visual narrative of changing images.

We are proud to display the students' work at our Bishops Square office and to share it with you in this catalogue. Allen & Overy's permanent Artbeat collection, comprising a selection of work from each Artbeat project in previous years, continues to bring energy and colour to our Canary Wharf office.

Identity

Morpeth Secondary School is a co-educational school for young people living in Tower Hamlets, with students from the many different ethnic groups found throughout the borough. The school has an extensive extra-curricular programme that plays a major part in its efforts to encourage and support student achievement. Artbeat has enjoyed a close relationship with the school since 2003. In 2006, the artistic efforts of the school were formally recognised through the award of specialist arts school status.

Sculptor Shelley Wilson took as her first reference point the richness and diversity of the cultural mix of the school and the area, encouraging the students to investigate all aspects of their identity and to explore the extent to which they may be influenced by the integration of East and West and the insecurities and tensions that this cultural interplay may present.

The students explored facial identity through an intense observational study in resistive materials (mainly fired clay) and on a visit to the National Portrait Gallery the students discovered how in both contemporary and historical portraiture symbolism is used to convey the identity and status of the sitter. To incorporate all of these elements into the final pieces, significant time was invested in the self-portrait heads. In contrast, the marks applied swiftly and directly by the students to the t-shirts suspended in the plinths give the viewer a snapshot of the unseen aspects of the students' identity and are both immediate and highly individual.

Artist: Shelley Wilson

Shelley Wilson's work combines the three disciplines of ceramics, sculpture and photography. She explores expressive forms of visualisation, experimentation, and the interaction between materials and subject matter, taking inspiration from the physicality and psychology of the human form. Her concerns are with the complexities of the mind and body and how they interact. Perhaps more importantly Shelley is searching for, and attempting to categorise and present, a "reality" beyond the scientifically measurable.

Shelley's work with the scientific community has resulted in various collaborations with scientists and clinicians, and she has exhibited widely both in the UK and internationally. She received a Wellcome Trust award for her work with Professor Arthur Crisp entitled 'Female Puberty and a Search for an Identity' which dealt with the complexities of psychological dilemmas of sufferers of anorexia nervosa. Other work includes a collaboration with Professor David Hopkinson, whose research focuses on the genes that are responsible for facial features.





Participating Students:

Farzana Akhtar
Bobbielee Atkins
Khadija Begum
Lepe Begum

Patience Duke
Tangina Hoque
Emrana Khanom
Fahima Khatun

Mark McMahon
Jimmy Sheals
Zoe Sutton
Imran Wahab

identity



Farzana Akhtar



Bobbielee Atkins



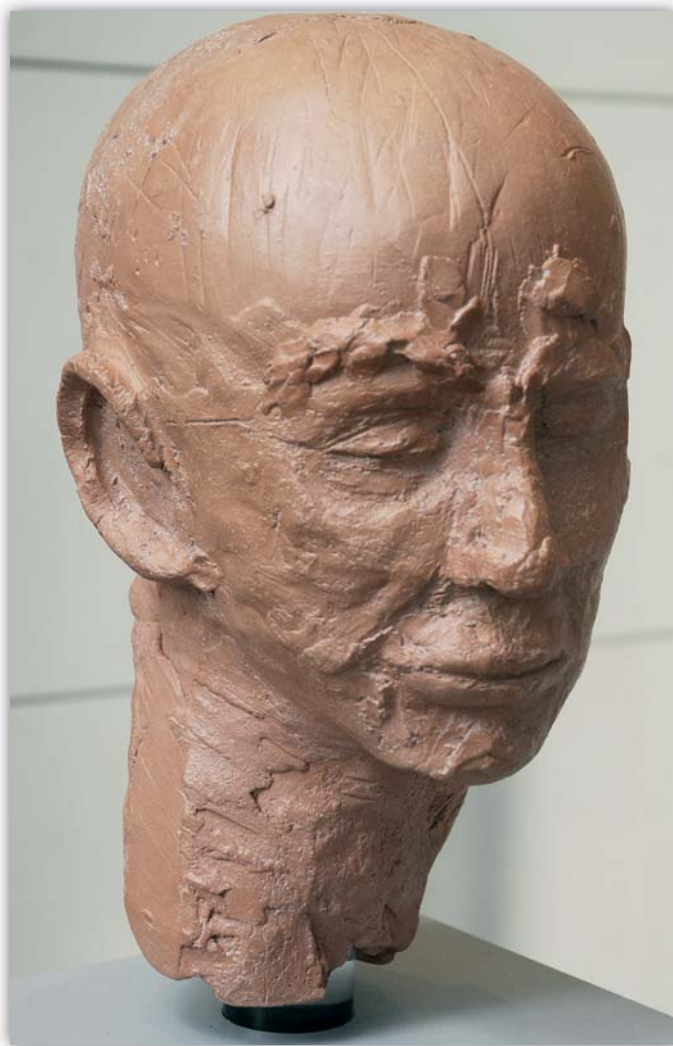
Khadija Begum



Lepe Begum



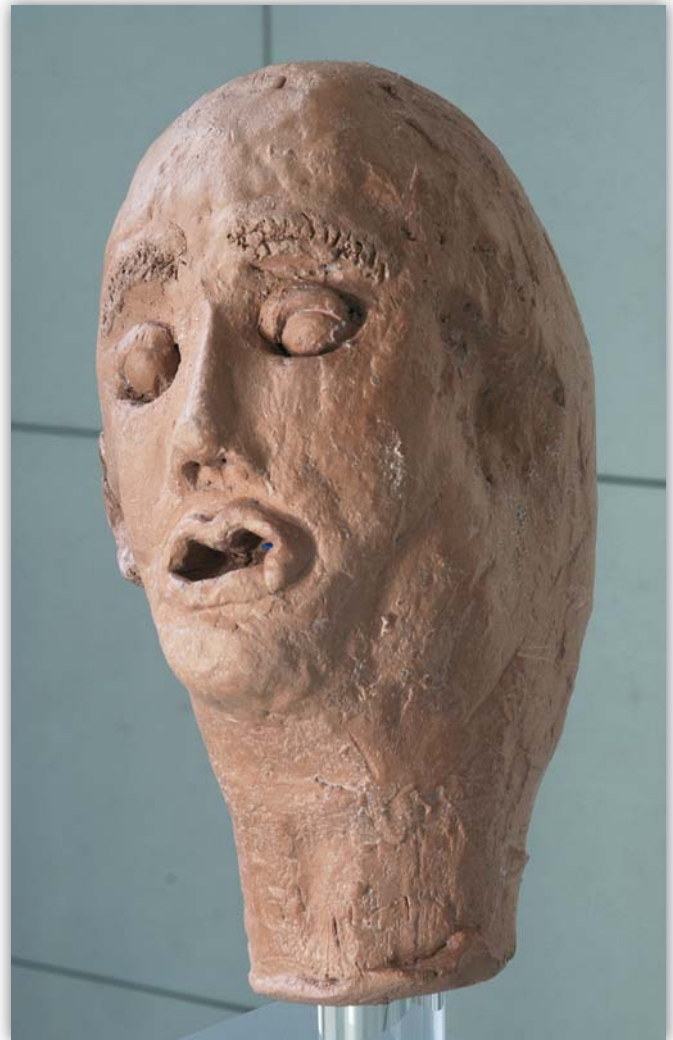
Patience Duke



Tangina Hoque



Emrana Khanom



Fahima Khatun



Mark McMahon



Jimmy Sheals



Zoe Sutton



Imran Wahab

Reflection

Bethnal Green Technology College is a mixed culture, mixed ability secondary school in the heart of Bethnal Green and is the Allen & Overy LLP charity of the year for 2006/7. The college prides itself on challenging its students to look beyond the boundaries of their experience and equipping them with the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century. This year saw Artbeat's fourth successful partnership with the college. The project was led by artist Ian Welsh and focused on the single word — “Reflection”.

Starting with an initial group discussion on the dictionary definition of the word, the students then explored the local area and recorded their perceptions of and associations with the word “Reflection” using disposable cameras. These ideas were then further developed in personal sketchbooks. To inform their work, the students also visited Ian's studio and the Tate Modern.

The students translated their responses into finished pieces by scratching, painting, collageing and constructing on sheets of mirror-polished aluminium using a wide array of techniques and other media. The results show a vast breadth of personal responses to a single word and beautifully reflect the rich diversity of London life.

Artist: Ian Welsh

Ian Welsh studied painting, sculpture and print-making at the Chelsea School of Art and has since taught, lectured and run departments in numerous art institutions in the UK, Scandinavia and the USA. Since the start of his professional career Ian has held numerous exhibitions and has appeared on television, on radio and in the press in connection with his work.

Drawn to its long history of cultural energy and ethnic mix, Ian and his family settled in London's East End in 1991 where he plays an active role in the community, not least as a school governor. Ian's involvement in the Artbeat project reflects his long-standing interest and involvement with arts education for minority students in London.

Participating Students:

Muzammil Ali	Vicky Furbert	Shaun Luu	Azijur Rahman
Jenifa Begum	Juned Hussain	Takaiya McGhie	Mofizur Rahman
Razna Begum	Chad Impey	Osman Miah	Shofiqur Rahman
Khadijah Busari	Nuray Kayran	Ruheen Miah	Scott Robertson
Tanjina Chowdhury	Tahsin Khanom	Fawziyya Muhammed	Shakeel Uddin
Amy Marie Cocks	Sadiya Khanum	Glorie Nzinisa	Ayse Yeter

reflection



Muzammil Ali | Smart Car



Jenifa Begum | Mirror of the Soul



Razna Begum | Eye Confused



Khadijah Busari | Roof of Swimming Pool



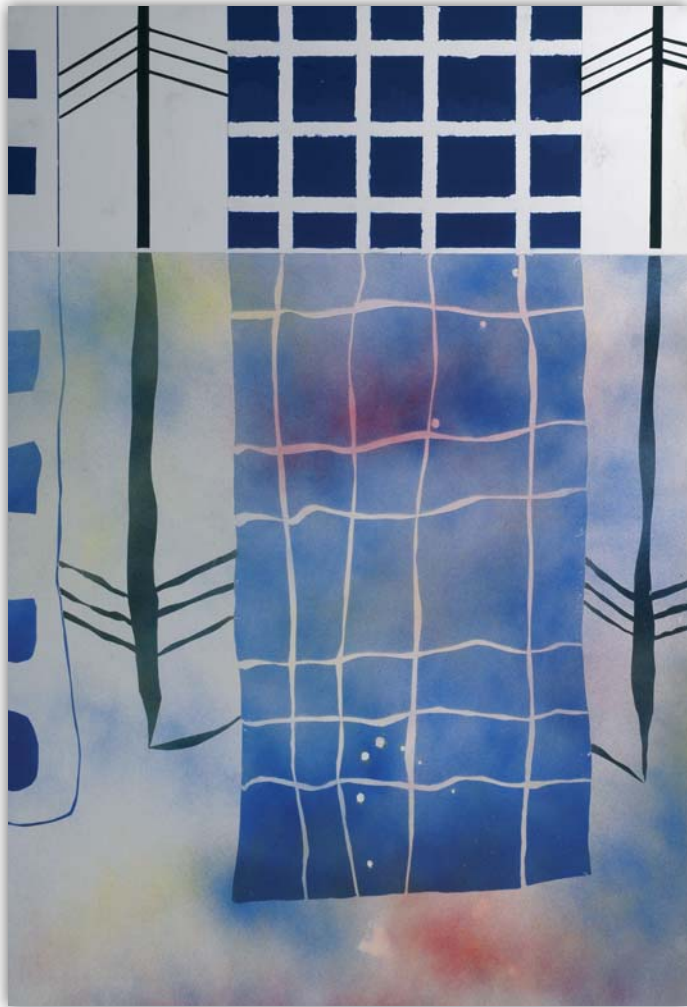
Tanjina Chowdhury | Memories in a Bath



Amy Marie Cocks | Icefire



Vicky Furbert | Dorette Grey



Juned Hussain | Reflections on the Sea



Chad Impey | The Hidden Beauty of the Canal



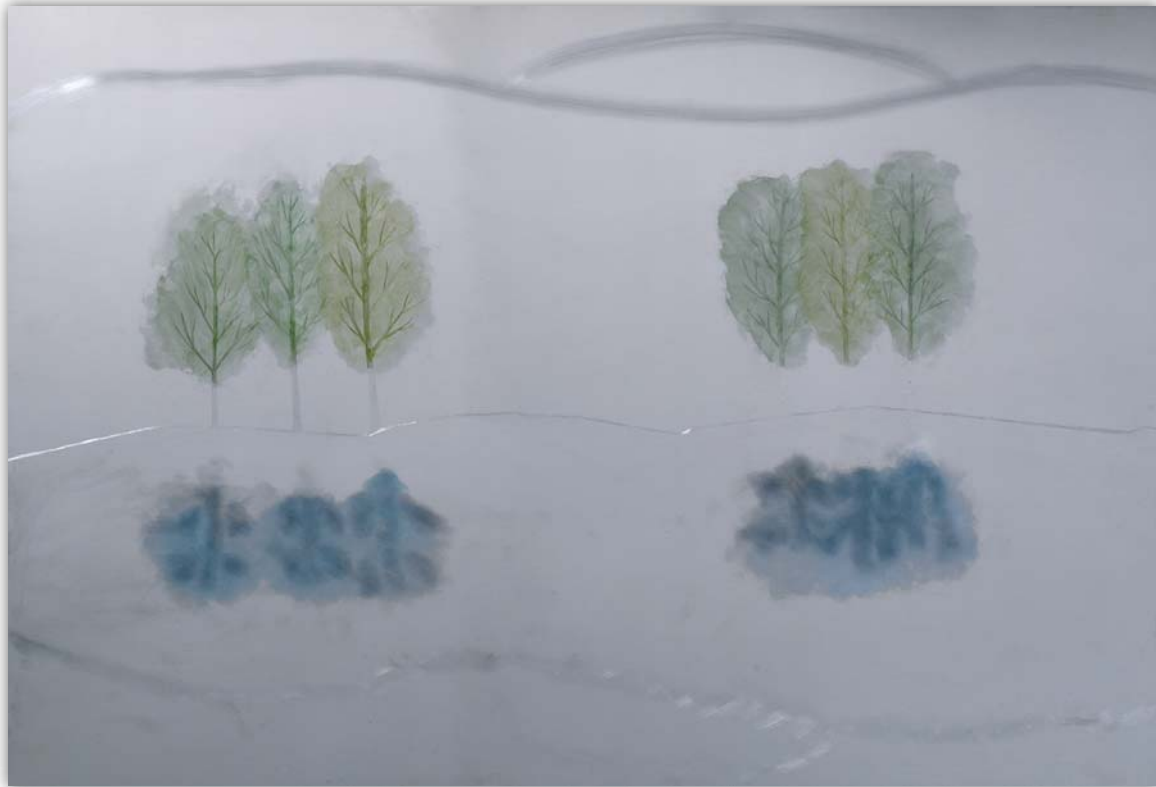
Nuray Kayran | Movement & Colour No. 2



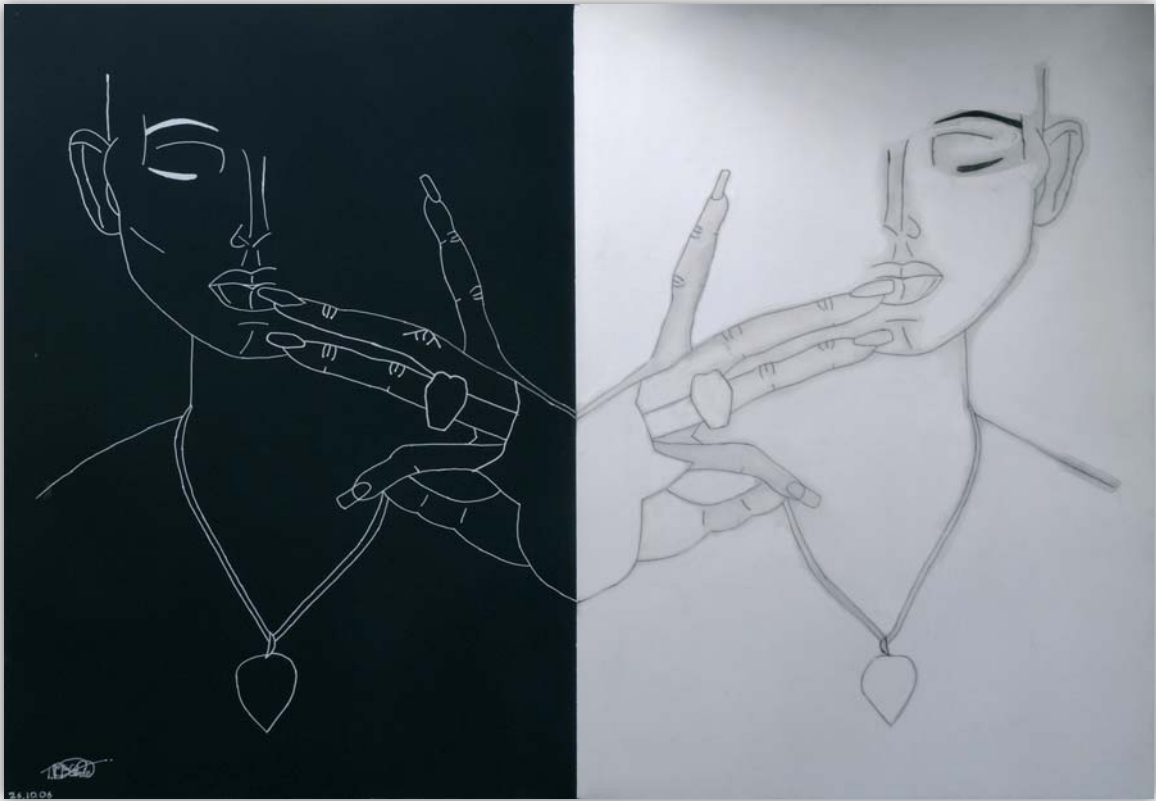
Sadiya Khanum | Canal from Darwen Place No. 2



Tahsin Khanom | Roller Coaster Extravaganza



Shaun Luu | Beginning of Peace



Takaiya McGhie | Mirrored Image



Ruheen Miah | Reflections of a Tree



Osman Miah | Standing in the Light and Dark Diptych





Glorie Nzinisa | Girl in Mirror

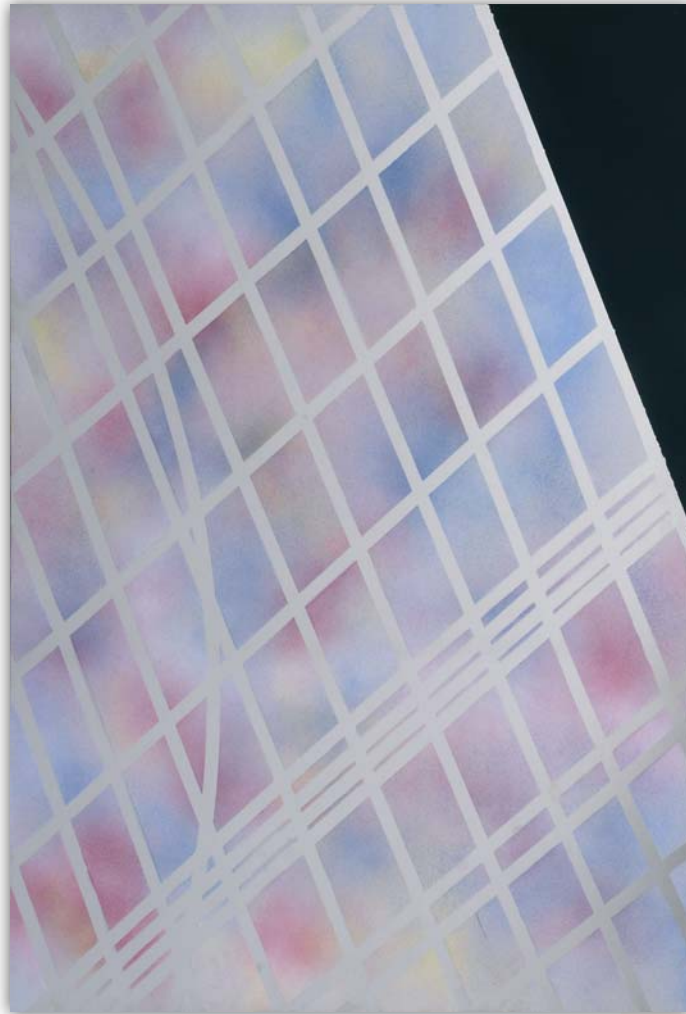


Azijur Rahman | Mountain Lair



Mofizur Rahman | Hidden behind Wood





Scott Robertson | The City at Night



Shakeel Uddin | Urban vs. Rural



Ayse Yeter | Mystery Mirror

The Changing Image

For the third consecutive year, Artbeat continued its partnership with students of Tower Hamlets College. This year artist Matthew Andrews was commissioned to work with six art 'A' level students from Tower Hamlets College in order to create lenticular images called 'Melanges'.

The Melanges lenticulars were made from a series of photos taken by the students. The students were then encouraged to use a variety of skills including photography, editing, computer image manipulation programmes and digital printing techniques, and the hands-on skill of marrying the digital output to the sheet lenses that together make a lenticular.

Lenticular imaging is not a new medium, having been invented and first shown in 1695. However, the advent of computers and high resolution printing has transformed what is possible with the medium and it has enjoyed a resurgence over the last few years, pioneered by Matthew who believes that "one of the most interesting aspects of lenticulars is the way you can create narratives with them. The viewer is forced to move about a space to uncover the image from different viewpoints. It immediately becomes enormously engaging and surprising, walking yourself through confusion to revelation. It is this aspect that makes lenticulars so good at holding attention and delivering ideas that spark imaginations."

The students visited both Matthew's studio and his exhibition 'Melanges' at the National Theatre to view different types of lenticulars and the equipment and processes involved in making them. The students were then asked to venture beyond their own

experiences and familiar environment and to identify a subject, object or emotion from which to create a personal narrative, portraying that subject from their own intellectual standpoint. The results are individual and varied, and force the viewer to assimilate contrasting images and reach their own conclusions regarding the relationships between them.

It is not possible to reproduce lenticulars photographically and the main images on the following pages therefore show the work from only one viewpoint. The smaller images show the base photographs which were interlaced to form the final piece.

Artist: Matthew Andrews

Matthew Andrews has been a working artist since 1985, graduating with an MA in Holography from the Royal College of Art. Since the making of holographic film ceased ten years ago, Matthew has been using the medium of lenticular imaging to create animated, 3D and flip images both as a fine art and commercially. He is virtually the only artist in the world working purely with this medium.

Prior to the Artbeat project, Matthew toured schools in the UK with an exhibition of his holographic art and introduced pupils to a new art medium with a science/interactive crossover. He has held numerous solo exhibitions, both holographic and lenticular, and has appeared on television and radio in connection with his work. Matthew has also undertaken many high-profile commissions.

Participating Students:

Misbah Ahmed

Sau-Wai Kan

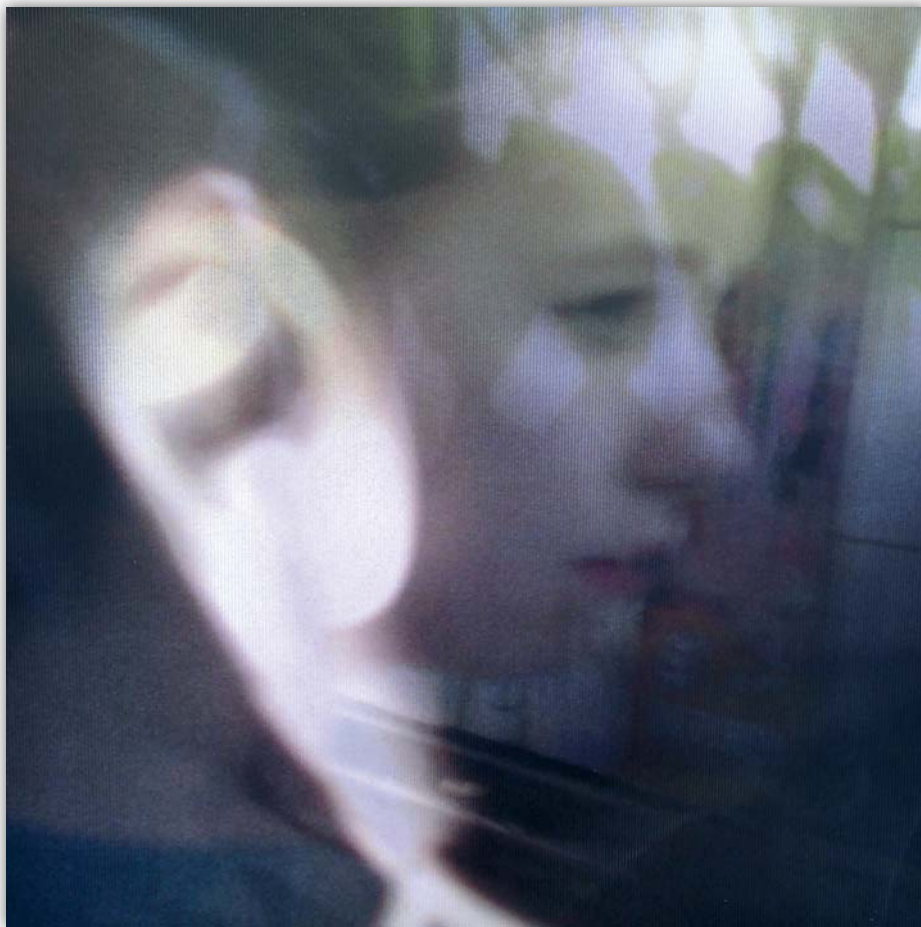
Riad Serroukh

Mehmet Alptekin

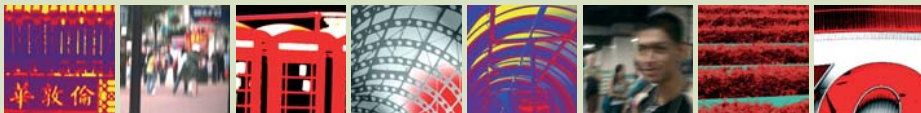
Tino Mutandawari

Kirsty Smith

change

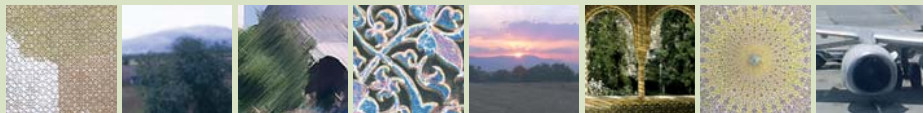
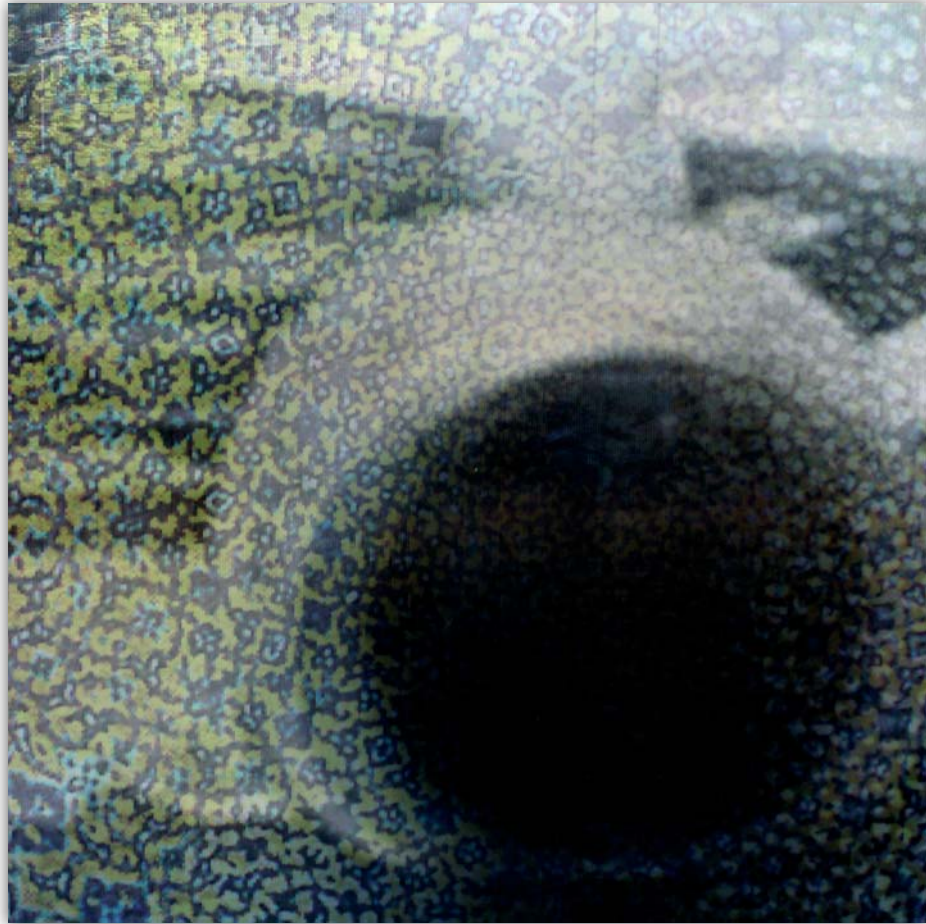


Group Piece



Tower Hamlets College

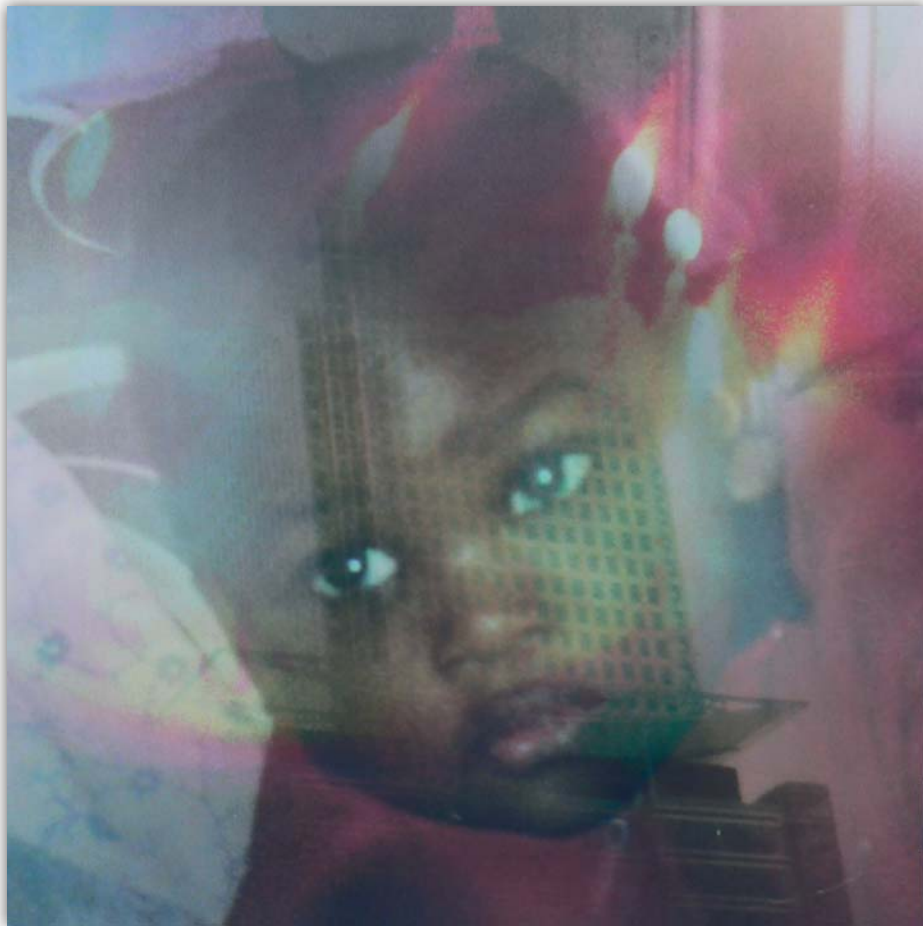
Misbah Ahmed



Mehmet Alptekin



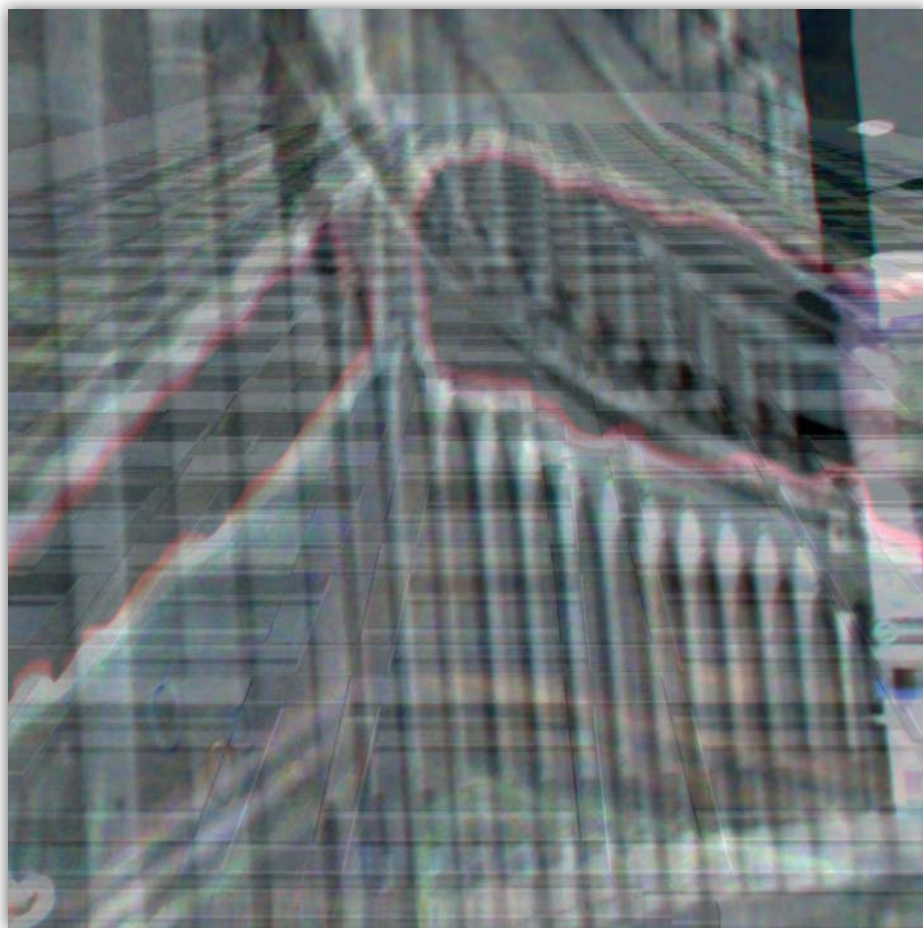
Sau-Wai Kan



Tino Mutandawari



Riad Serroukh



Kirsty Smith

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The White Wall Company

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