

The *Lucida* Symposium: Vision in History, Theory and Practice

Venue: Library, Asia House

Thurs 29th June 2017

About:

The act of seeing is often taken for granted, yet it is far from straightforward or universal. Exploring seeing as a culturally modulated process, leading researchers and practitioners from art history, neuroscience, medicine and the visual arts will explore a diversity of approaches towards the complex subject of visual perception and its meaning in different cultures, societies and historical periods. The event accompanies the exhibition of Suki Chan's *Lucida II & III* at Asia House from 14th to 30th June 2017.

Programme:

From Obscura to Lucida

Artist Suki Chan became interested in vision through an early form of Photography – the camera obscura. In her presentation, she will discuss her motivations, her research methodologies and the development of her project *Lucida*. From dialogues with vision scientists, psychologists, neurobiologists as well as the Moorfields Eye Hospital, Chan created a synthesis of different scientific research to create real-time, immersive art experiences with eye-tracking technology.

Haptic Vision: Making Surface Sense of Islamic Material Culture

Simon O'Meara, Lecturer in the History of Architecture & Archaeology of the Islamic Middle East, SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London.

This presentation investigates an idea recently proposed in Islamic art history that non-figurative, geometric Islamic art is predominantly a haptic art and thus is more appropriately engaged by a "seeing hand," or a "fingering eye."

The Construction of Perceptual Worlds

Richard Wingate, Neuroscientist and Head of Anatomy, King's College London.

The coherence of perceptual worlds was a problem that was first raised by William Molyneux in the seventeenth century. When a blind person is given sight, are the objects known through a world of touch and feel instantly recognisable as the same objects by the eye? Or does this coherence have to be learned by experience? An early pioneer of science, William Cheselden, explored this paradox through the experiences of a young patient treated for cataracts in the early 1700s. His story still has resonance with studies being carried out today on the Indian sub-continent that resolve this question, first posed over 300 years ago.

An Evolving Ophthalmic Educational Approach in the Developing World

Anthony Chignell, Emeritus Consultant Ophthalmologist, St. Thomas' Hospital, London and founder of the World Sight Foundation.

The Ethos of the World Sight Foundation is to contribute to the solving of world blindness (39 million sufferers) and visual disability through a process of education. In his talk, Anthony Chignell will describe his experiences of teaching in The Far East and Africa.

Schedule:

Symposium: 3pm – 6pm

3.00 pm Welcome note, Pamela Kember

3.05 pm Introduction, Marius Kwint

3.20 pm Suki Chan

3.55 pm Tea Break

4.05 pm Simon O'Meara

4.40 pm Dr Richard Wingate

5.15 pm Anthony Chignell

5.45 pm Panel discussion, all speakers.

Drinks Reception: 6 – 7 pm