

Biography

Mark Titchner was born in Luton in 1973 and studied at Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London, graduating in 1995. In 2006 Titchner was nominated and short-listed for the Turner Prize. His work also featured in the British Art Show 6 at BALTIC, 2005.

Solo exhibitions include; *I We It*, Gloucester Road Underground Station, London (2004), *The Eye Don't See Itself*, Vilma Gold, London (2007); *IT IS YOU*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2006); the Tate Art Now series, *Be Angry But Don't Stop Breathing*, Tate Britain, London (2003). Group shows include; *When We Build, Let Us Think That We Build Forever*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2007); *Sodium & Asphalt*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City and MARCO, Monterrey (2004); *Playing Amongst the Ruins*, RCA, London (2001); *Between Two Deaths* at ZKM, Karlsruhe (2007). In 2007 he contributed to the Ukraine Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Artist Talk

Thursday 6 March / 18.30-19.30 / FREE

Mark Titchner talks about *Run, Black River, Run* with Alessandro Vincentelli, BALTIC's Acting Head of Programme with a chance to ask the artist questions in the Level 4 gallery space. Pre-booking essential. Call 0191 478 1810 or email events@balticmill.com to reserve a place.

Further Information

To find out more about Mark Titchner and our other exhibitions visit BALTIC Library & Archive online database <http://archive.balticmill.com>

The database contains over 100 films and audio files documenting the artists and their work

Free Daily Guided Tours

From Monday 4 February this exhibition will be included in the Daily Guided Tours at 11.00 and 16.00, meeting at the Information Desk, Ground Floor. No booking required.

BALTIC Podcasts

For further information and to subscribe (free of charge) to BALTIC podcasts visit www.balticmill.com/podcasts

MARK TITCHNER

Run, Black River, Run

29 January - 27 April 2008

BALTIC
www.balticmill.com

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Opening Times: daily 10.00-18.00 except Tuesday 10.30-18.00. Free Admission.
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MARK TITCHNER

Run, Black River, Run

29 January - 27 April 2008

BALTIC presents a new exhibition by 2006 Turner Prize nominee, Mark Titchner. In *Run, Black River, Run* Titchner creates a psychologically unnerving space, combining image and sound. The exhibition highlights the artist's interest in language, human perception and states of mind.

Run, Black River, Run comprises a new series of banners presented on scaffolding frames; the video installation, *The Eye Don't See Itself* which depicts a kaleidoscopic, unblinking eye, mirrored in a black pool; the kinetic sculpture *UR Text*. Additionally, a new outdoor artwork animates the exterior of BALTIC with a large-scale banner, *I Want A Better Me* (2008), displayed on the North Face.

Run, Black River, Run features eight large banners displayed on simple scaffolding frames. Forming an Orwellian boulevard through the gallery, each banner presents a positive slogan against a baroque, graphic background using only three colours: black, white and red. Recurring motifs such as leaves and swirls can be found across all eight works in some form.

Each of the short statements are derived from mission and value statements of the world's most successful brand. Titchner uses scale and his distinctive graphic style to present these statements of self-improvement, which despite the magnitude of what they suggest, remain essentially empty.

Titchner has said: "Nowhere within them do they contain any real information about what they might really mean, let alone how they might actually be ideas that would be implemented in the world. After all, we would all like to 'Be Real' but what does that actually mean?" He adds: "What the emptiness in these slogans reveals is in fact the emptiness in us all. We continue to fall short of these aspirations, and our happiness will always depend on attaining what we endlessly aspire to."

The Eye Don't See Itself is a kaleidoscopic projection of an unblinking eye against an obelisk, on an endlessly moving background. The whole work is mirrored in a black pool beneath, which fills the centre of the gallery. The reflecting pool and obelisk¹ appearing in the film refers directly to the Washington Monument, (Washington DC, USA) but also recalls places of memorial to more ancient belief systems, including early Christianity and paganism. The video employs flickering light at a frequency of 10 Hertz², which corresponds to the brain's electrical activity in Alpha state – a state of relaxation, with eyes closed but still awake.

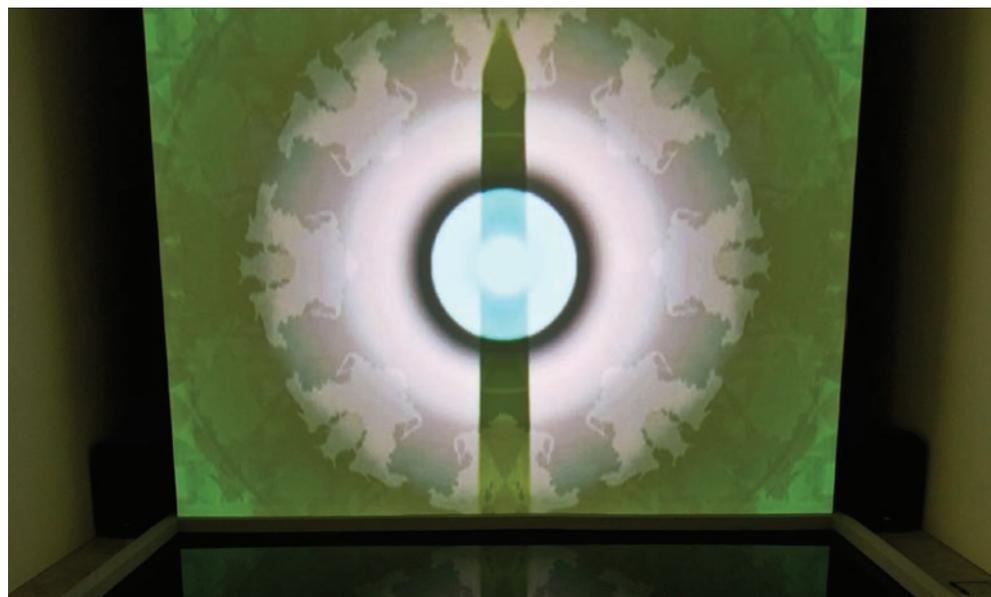
The light and sound effect is a reference to both the work of neuro-physiologist W. Grey Walter and artist and poet Brion Gysin. The video presentation is accompanied by a softly spoken audio of computerised male and female voices which repeat a mantra to self-improvement: "If you don't like your life you can change it... After all what good is life without conquest? If you can dream it you can do it."

UR Text continues the artist's deep fascination with the origins of language and the nature of communication. The exterior banner on BALTIC sees Titchner use bold language and typography, which again articulates the possibility of change through ideas of self improvement, whilst also highlighting the real world and its imperfections.

Titchner prompts us, through his work to question advertising, mass media and popular culture. *Run, Black River, Run* comments on the blind faith and obedience to authority which is unconscious in much of society.



What We Do, We Do Well, 2008. Courtesy the artist and Vilma Gold.



The Eye Don't See Itself. Courtesy the artist and Vilma Gold.

¹ A tapering, four-sided shaft of stone

² Hz / Hertz being a unit of frequency. One hertz simply means one cycle per second (typically that which is being counted is a complete cycle).