

firstdraft

Gallery 3

3 February – 19 March 2023

The Visible Invisible

Yvette Hamilton

Is it possible to see something that, by definition, is impossible to see?¹

The Visible Invisible is an installation of expanded photography that uses black holes as a poetic device to explore identities shaped by adoption and diasporic existence, where not-knowing is an active lived-experience. This experience is mapped to the event horizon at the edge of a black hole, that contains the visible and the invisible, and the known and the unknown.

The works respond to the imagined concept of moving at the speed of light towards an event horizon, where the quest to see is affected by the warping of space, time, and light. A journey where the visible folds into the invisible. The installation explores the limits of the inherently visual medium of photography and attempts to create a speculative space to contemplate not knowing, not seeing, and to explore and materialise the invisible.

In my first experience under the red light of a darkroom, I witnessed latent images appear from void rectangles of photographic paper, and then also disappear into blackness under the swish of chemicals across material surfaces. My personal history is built upon a central mystery, thus my affinity for black holes, and their states of not seeing and not knowing are akin to my own lived experience. This central absence has led my expanded photographic practice to focus on the quest to see the unseen, to broach distance, and to explore the unknown. As Vilem Flusser states, I create “images in order to orientate (myself) in the world.”²

1. Katie Bouman, [How to Take a Picture of a Black Hole](#), accessed August 16, 2020, 2:17.
2. Vilém Flusser, *Towards a Philosophy of Photography* (London: Reaktion Books, 2000). 10.

The artist would like to thank Ian Bridges at Linden Observatory for the loan of the signal mirrors and excellent explanations of physics; Michael Petchovsky for construction, calmness, install and inspiration; Jacob Taylor for animation and technical genius, and Bee Elton for outstanding photography.

Gallery 1
Conversion
EO Gill

Gallery 2
Anna May Kirk
Year Without A Sun

Gallery 4
A Leakage of Wholes (iterations)
Betty Russ

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
woolloomooloo
nsw 2011
+61 2 8970 2999
firstdraft.org.au

we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.

firstdraft is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW; and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



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Yvette Hamilton is an Australian interdisciplinary artist and academic working on the unceded lands of the Dharug and Gundungurra people (Blue Mountains, NSW).

Exploring the unseen and the unphotographable, at a time when everything is seen and photographed, her practice sits at the edges of the photographic medium and explores the way that it shapes human vision. As an adopted person of Mauritian descent, her connection to culture is mostly absent - a galaxy of the unknowable and the distant. This central absence has led her practice to focus on the quest to see the unseen, to broach distance, explore the unknown and to materialise the invisible.

She is Associate Lecturer in Photography and Moving Image at UNSW Art and Design and a current PhD candidate at the University of Sydney. Yvette's work has been shown in Australia and overseas in exhibitions at venues such as Pingyao International Festival of Photography, Lewisham Arthouse London, Perth Centre for Photography, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Olsen Annexe Gallery, Sydney.

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Artworks (entry, then clockwise from left)

For sales enquiries, please
email yvette@yvettehamilton.com

*Compression study with doppler
shift (closer) #1–3, 2023*
dye sublimation prints on aluminium
18 × 90 cm, 16 × 90 cm, 30 × 90 cm

*Compression study with doppler
shift (further) #1, 2023*
dye sublimation print on aluminium
35 × 60 cm

Supermassive, 2023
single-channel HD video
3 minutes, looped

Holding an infinity of density #1, 2023
sublimation print on aluminium
20 × 25 cm

Holding an infinity of density #2, 2023
sublimation print on aluminium
20 × 25 cm

*Compression study (a short flash of light)
#1 and #2, 2023*
dye sublimation prints on aluminium
30 × 90 cm, 18 × 90 cm

Between knowing and not knowing, 2023
dye sublimation print on aluminium (12 × 90 cm),
mirror, spotlight
dimensions variable

Looking for a sign, seeing at the edges, 2023
signal mirrors, spotlights, cinefoil, plywood
dimensions variable

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