

WEEK 3:

TITLE: *What do we see?*

What do we see?

- **Keywords:** seeing, belief, simulacra
- **Key Thinkers:** Jean Baudrillard, Trevor Paglan, Ali Smith,
- **Makers:** Ai Wei Wei, Gavin Turk, Anya Gallacio, Rachel Whiteread.
- **Suggested reading:** Baudrillard, J. (1994) *simulacra and simulation*. Michigan, U.S.
- Ali Smith (2015) *How to be both*, Penguin (Not in UWTSD Library)

Plato's allegory of the cave

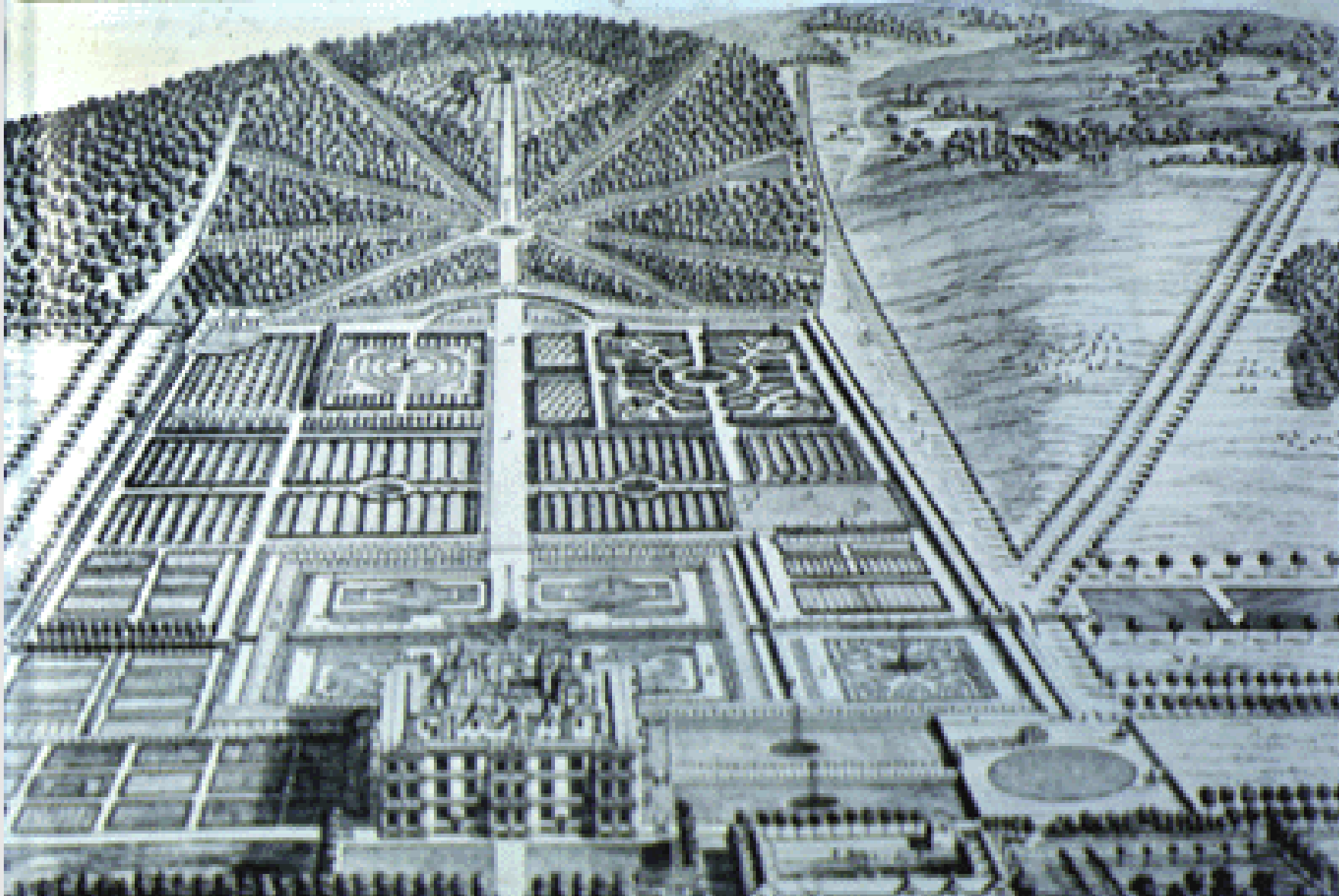
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWIUKJIMge4>

Capability Brown
landscape gardens

Nathaniel Dance, (later Sir
Nathaniel Holland, Bt) *Lancelot*
(*'Capability'*) *Brown* oil on canvas,
circa 1769 29 5/8 in. x 24 7/8 in.
(752 mm x 632 mm)



Longleat before Capability Brown



Longleat, Wiltshire (1757)
Before Capability Brown:
Rigid Bi-Lateral Symmetry by
Henry Wise and Gorge
London influenced by ad
Andre Le Notre



Longleat after Capability Brown

Capability Brown
- Longleat gardens (900 acres)

Brown created the effect of the appearance of unrestrained nature by planting a vast stretch of lawn punctuated by small clusters of trees or single trees irregularly placed in wavy belts. He shaped a formal garden into a naturalistic landscape undoing all that London and Wise had done before.

"All gardening is a landscape painting"

William Kent

(trained painter and landscape gardener died 1748)



Newton House from the north as depicted in an early 18th century image showing possible burgage plots, farm buildings and a formal garden



The smooth flowing lines of the park east of Newton House



Thomas Gainsborough (1750) *Mr and Mrs Andrews* [Oil on canvas 69.8x119.4cm]

Yinka Shonibare MBE



William Hogarth (1732–1734) *The Orgy A Rake's Progress, 3: The Tavern Scene*

<http://yalebooksblog.co.uk/2015/11/02/a-celebration-of-the-yale-pelican-history-of-art-series/fig-97-sjs-4488/>, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=78055607>



DIARY OF A VICTORIAN DANDY: 03.00 HOURS

C-type print; ed. of 5, 122 x 183 cm (48 x 72 in)

©1998, Yinka Shonibare, MBE

Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes *Plate 39 from The Disasters of War 1810-1820 (first pub. 1863)* © The Trustees of the British Museum Etching, fine and large grain aquatint, hatching 15x20cm



Jake and Dinos Chapman *Great Deeds Against the Dead* 1994 ^[L-7]_[SEP] Mixed Media
277x244x152.5cm



Jake and Dinos Chapman *Gigantic Fun* 2000 ¹¹_{SEP} Etching from a portfolio of 83 37x42.3cm





Jake Chapman, Dinos Chapman (2002) *The Chapman Family Collection* [34 wooden sculptures, metal, horn, coin, bones and shells] Tate

Jake and Dinos Chapman (2002) *The Chapman Family Collection* [Painted bronze] White Cube

Jake and Dinos Chapman: *The Chapman Family Collection* (2013)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_PLskbclmY

‘On first sight, The Chapman Family Collection is a selection of wooden carvings, collected on trips to foreign colonies. On closer look, you'll find cheeseburgers, fries and Ronald McDonald among the fetish objects. The collection was first exhibited at the White Cube, and was acquired by the Tate Britain in 2007 with the Art Fund's help. In our short film, Rosie Rockel meets the brothers to find out more. Film by Northern Town: <http://www.northerntown.co.uk/>’



The spirit photographs of William Hope

- <https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/the-spirit-photographs-of-william-hope>



The Treachery of Images (This is Not a Pipe) (La trahison des images [Ceci n'est pas une pipe])

[René Magritte](#), (1929)

Oil on canvas

23 3/4 × 31 15/16 × 1 in.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art



[Marcel Duchamp](#)

Fountain

1917, replica 1964 Tate



Rauschenberg (1953)
Erased de Kooning Drawing

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGRNQER16Do&feature=related>

Rauschenberg erased de Kooning 3mins approx



Rachel Whiteread.

Rachel Whiteread, *House*, at 193 Grove Road, London E3, 1993. © Rachel Whiteread. Photo by Sue Omerod. Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian.

‘building within a building... hardened space into mass.’
(Whiteread, 1993)

Gillian Wearing / 2 into 1 (1997)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36WUgFMDY-M>

simulacra

- Simulacra and Simulation is a 1981 philosophical treatise by the sociologist Jean Baudrillard, in which the author seeks to examine the relationships between reality, symbols, and society, in particular the significations and symbolism of culture and media involved in constructing an understanding of shared existence.
- Simulacra are copies that depict things that either had no original, or that no longer have an original. Simulation is the imitation of the operation of a real-world process or system over time.
- simulacrum is another word for a simulation an imitation or a representation of something
- “Simulacra are copies that depict things that either had no reality to begin with, or that no longer have an original.
- Simulation is the imitation of the operation of a real-world process or system over time.

simulacra

- Simulacrum has become completely divorced from the original reality
this final stage
- is something that Baudrillard has called hyper reality



Duane Hanson (1971) *Woman Eating Synthetic Material*
[Sculpture] Smithsonian American Art Museum, Fair use,
<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=33563745>



Ron Mueck, *A Girl* (2006), acrylic on polyester resin and fibreglas, 110.5 x 134.5 x 501 cm. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.



‘Ron Mueck’s sculptures are so life-like that we find it hard to believe that they are modelled and cast in the traditional way rather than cast from life, even though, as is the case with *Mask III* 2005, it is many times the size of a human head.’

<https://www.tate.org.uk/artist-rooms/collection/themes/belief>

Mixed media

DIMENSIONS : 1550 × 1320 × 1130 mm, 57 kg

ANYA GALLACCIO



that open space within (detail), 2008, dead horse-chestnut tree, rope, and findings, dimensions variable

‘I destroyed the structural integrity of the branches by choosing to cut them, and in putting them back together chose to emphasize the mending or fixing. The bolts extend way beyond the surface of the wood—like pins in a fractured limb—and the ropes hold it in traction within the space. There’s no illusion there, and I’m not trying to disguise the artifice of the reconstruction.’

ANYA GALLACCIO

July 20, 2008 • Anya Gallaccio discusses her new installation in London

<https://www.artforum.com/interviews/anya-gallaccio-discusses-her-new-installation-in-london-20773>

Gavin Turk



COD AND CHIPS TO TAKE AWAY

Painted bronze
4 x 21 x 31.5 cms
2008

A bronze cast of a crushed polystyrene chip tray, painted to look real.



TRASH

Edition of 8
Painted bronze
42 x 47 x 51 cms
2007

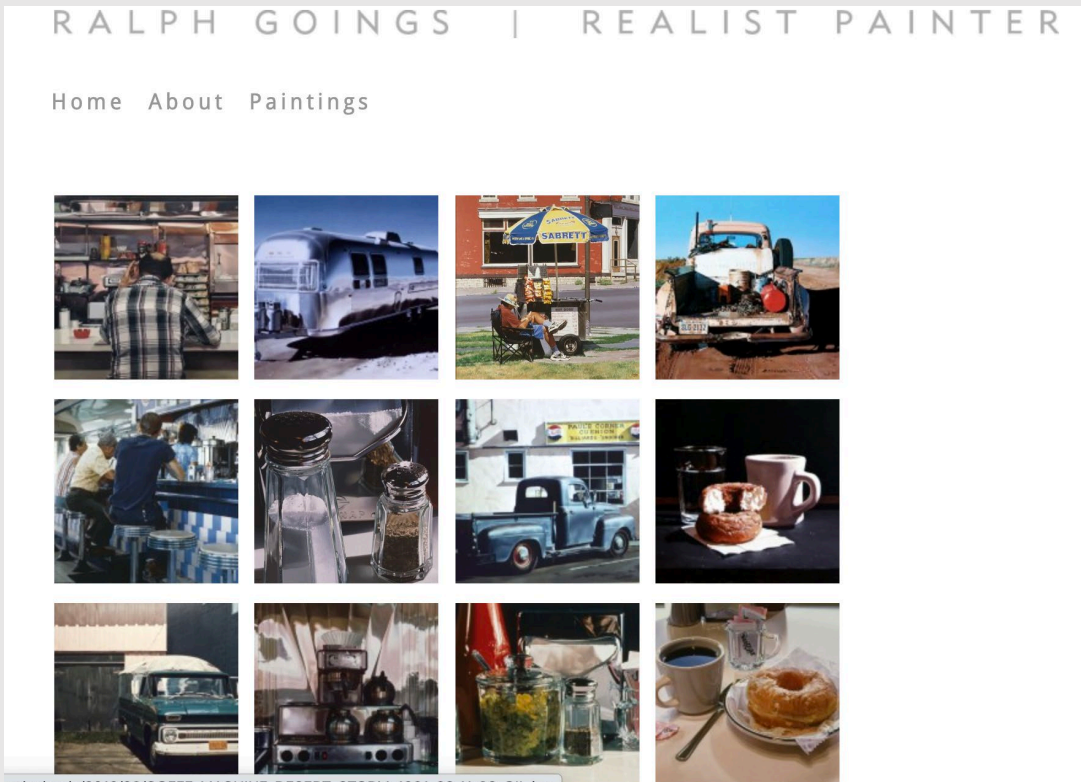
A bronze cast of a full black bin bag, painted to look real.



PRONE

Edition of 6
Painted bronze
67 x 10 x 44.5 cms
2003

Hyperreal / photoreal



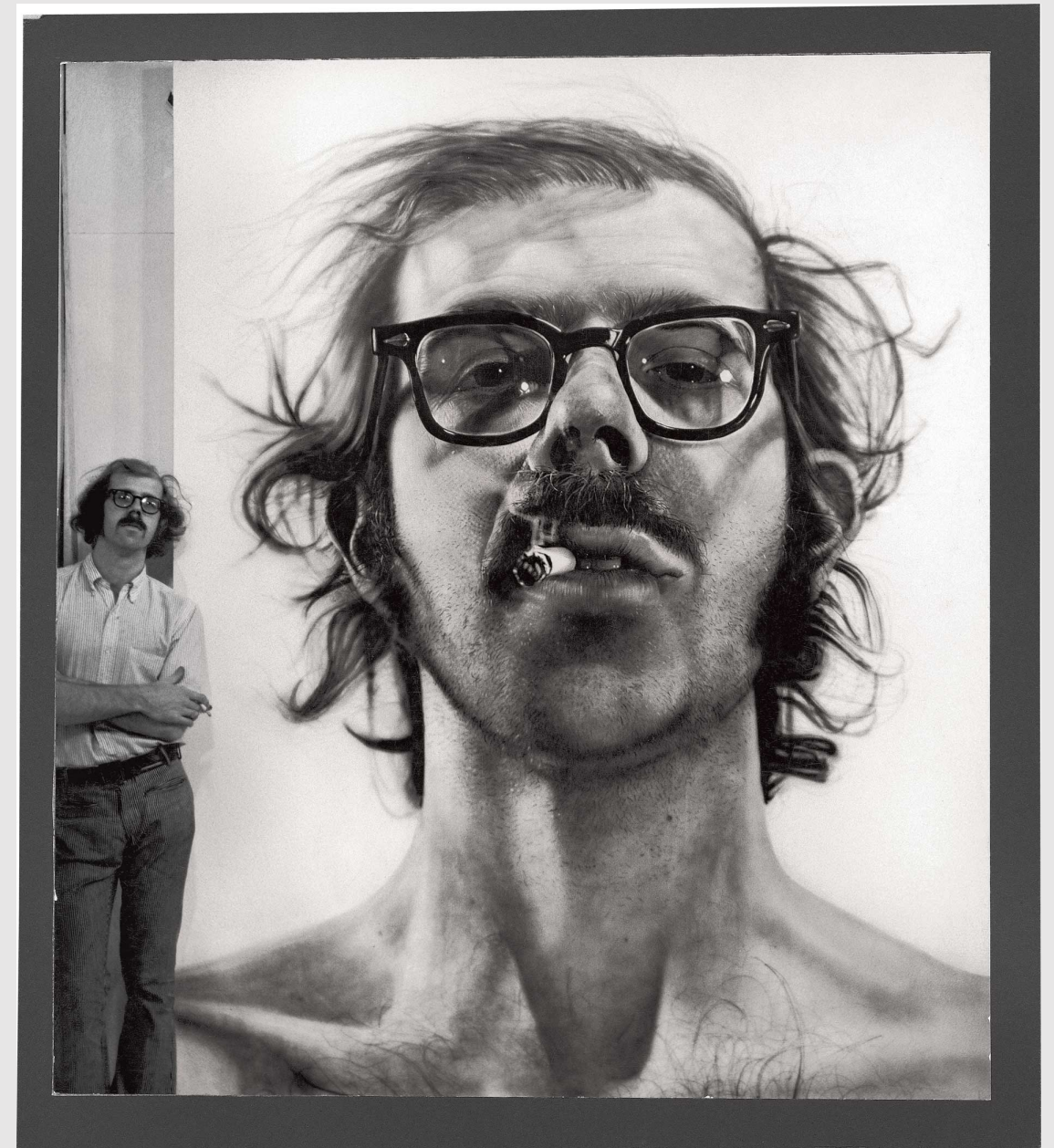
Ralph Goings (1991) *TWO SHAKERS CLOSE UP* 32 X 32 OIL

Chuck Close

Vogue article DODIE KAZANJIAN
(2021) *Reckoning With the
Monumental—and Damaged—
Legacy of Chuck Close*

<https://www.vogue.com/article/chuck-close-artist-curator-legacy>

Does this change what we see?



Kenny Leicester (1968) Chuck Close in his studio with *Big Self Portrait*

Weir P (1998) *The Truman Show* [Video]
Hollywood.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZMZYrdXtP0>

Baudrillard (1994) claims that our current society has “replaced all reality and meaning with symbols and signs, and that human experience is of a simulation of reality.”

That there is a blurring between the real and the simulation

Examples could be

Reality TV

Disney land

Hyperreal

Real and fictional collapsed into each other

Subvertising



- *Travels in Hyper Reality* is a collection of essays written in various times and contexts by Umberto Eco, a self-defined semiologist. Semiotics is the study of the language of signs and how they are formed through language, communication, and organization. Eco takes the reader through various explorations of the different forms that these signs may take in day to day life, including behaviors, politics, artificial landscapes, and words. Eco suggests that freedom of thought arises through understanding the signs that are being employed through various agencies.

Ref <https://atgstudyjournal.wordpress.com/2015/04/12/umberto-eco-travels-in-hyperreality/>

Umberto Eco (1975) Extract of *Travels in Hyper Reality*

http://www.columbia.edu/itc/architecture/ockman/pdfs/session_8/eco.pdf

Task for next week

- Explore theories presented in this lecture and make annotations and notes for future reference.

- Baudrillard, J. (1994) *simulacra and simulation*. Michigan, U.S. (Available at) https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Simulacra_and_Simulation.html?id=9Z9biHaoLZIC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false Accessed October 2021.
- Carneades.org (2021) *What is a Simulacrum?* (Postmodern Philosophy) (Available at) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4tyWKJUPPU> Accessed October 2021
- Eco, U. (1975) Extract of *Travels in Hyper Reality* http://www.columbia.edu/itc/architecture/ockman/pdfs/session_8/eco.pdf
- The school of life (2016) *Plato's allegory of the cave*. (Available at) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWlUKJIMge4> Accessed October 2021