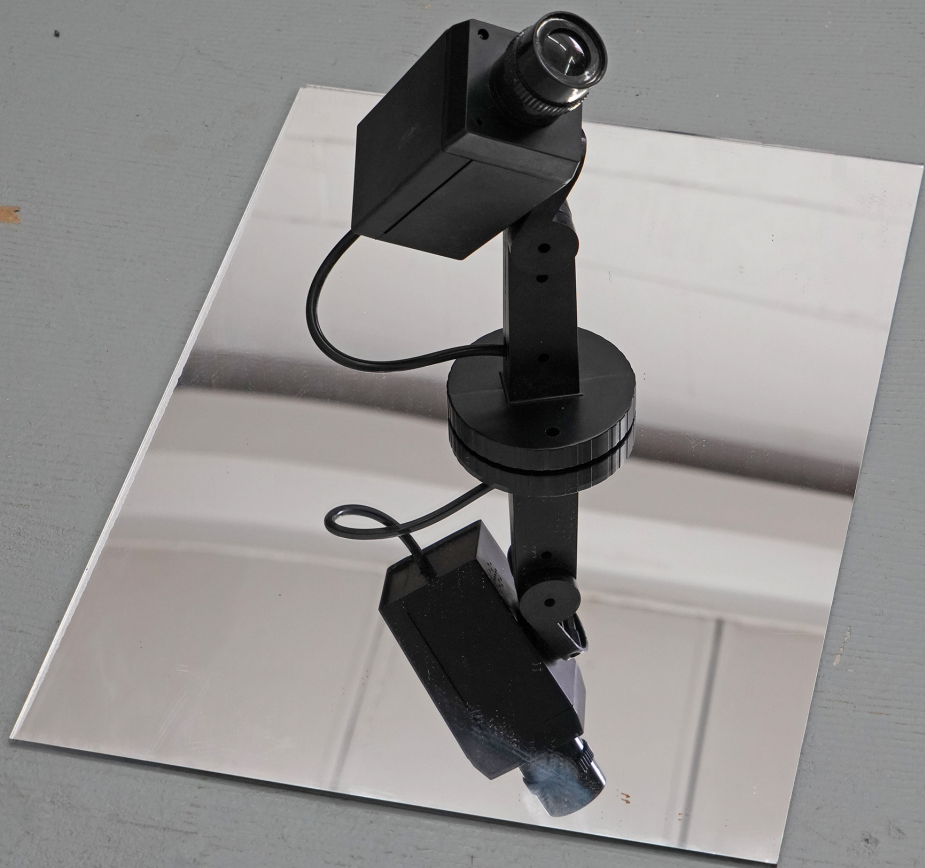


**LEEDS  
ARTS RESEARCH  
CENTRE**

**KEF**

**DR BEN DALTON**

**A PROPOSAL FOR A CLOSED-CIRCUIT GUARANTEE  
FOR HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU R&D ARTIST  
RESIDENCY AT DIGITAL MEDIA LABS LEEDS**



# KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris ([S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)) and Dr Tina Conkar ([t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)) by **21 February 2023**.

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>      | Dr Ben Dalton               |
| <b>Job Title:</b> | Principal Lecturer          |
| <b>Email:</b>     | b.dalton@leedsbeckett.ac.uk |
| <b>School:</b>    | Leeds School of Arts        |

Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Project Title:</b>                                     | A Proposal for a Closed-Circuit Guarantee for Here's Looking at You R&D artist residency at Digital Media Labs Leeds  |
| <b>Project Date(s):</b>                                   | 13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021, and 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021  |
| <b>URL Link to Project:</b>                               | <a href="https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/">https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/</a><br><a href="https://ysp.org.uk/events/walk-and-talk-with-artist-benedict-phillips">https://ysp.org.uk/events/walk-and-talk-with-artist-benedict-phillips</a> (404)<br><a href="https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/a-proposal-for-a-closed-circuit-guarantee/">https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/a-proposal-for-a-closed-circuit-guarantee/</a><br><a href="https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/test-images/">https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/test-images/</a><br><a href="https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/who-do-we-need-to-check-up-on/">https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/who-do-we-need-to-check-up-on/</a><br><a href="https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/eyeless-creature-turns-out-to-be-all-eyes/">https://www.digitalmedialabs.org/artist/eyeless-creature-turns-out-to-be-all-eyes/</a><br><a href="https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/634729846">https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/634729846</a> |
| <b>Brief Description of Project</b> (250-1000 words max.) | In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.   |
|   | Nominated and selected participant on the week-long "Here's Looking at You" artist residency at Digital Media Labs studio in Leeds. Included returning as the invited academic discussant as part of artist Benedict Phillips Yorkshire Sculpture Park event.   |

“Here’s Looking at You: R&D (HLY) took place throughout 2021. A residency with a group of artists exploring CCTV and the possibilities for a new creative approach and platform.”

“DM Labs is an ongoing series of research and development labs for artists working with technology to apply their processes to new contexts, to hothouse ideas, and create new collaborations within a specially nominated peer group.”

“Here’s Looking at You – R&D is a creative research project investigating technologies and possibilities for creating artworks in the public domain using CCTV. This will be explored through a series of different processes including creating a first prototype of what an artist-run CCTV platform might look like and then experimenting within this system. HLY will interrogate the usefulness of this process and the systems employed alongside wider concepts of overt and covert technologies. This interrogation and exploration of ideas and technologies will be carried out collaboratively by a group of artists, curators, and technologists. The project is only intended as a starting point or reference for opening up a discussion about seeing and being seen by technology and the role of ‘the controller’ of ‘the subject’ in this relationship.”

My work found that the closed-circuit technical limitations of the original CCTV contributed to a sort of safety and intimacy. Without the leaky indeterminacy of contemporary cloud-networked surveillance apparatuses, CCTV held potential as a playful tool of individual agency and control. A closed-circuit meant the TV did not go beyond clear boundaries – “their own system”.

|   |  |   |                                  |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <p><b>Organisations Engaged with:</b><br/>Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p> | <p>Benedict Phillips and ‘Here’s Looking at You’ R&amp;D was supported by National Lottery Funding through Arts Council England, with support from DM Labs, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Disability Arts Online.</p> | <p><b>Total participants:</b><br/>Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p> | <p>Lab: ~8<br/>YSP talk: ~25</p> |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes:</b><br/>If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p> | <p>Aspects of CCTV as a creative material and an apparatus of power were considered and analysed from multiple perspectives including theoretical, philosophical, political, artistic, design and technical. This was done in an artist residency setting with local and international participants, and in the context of an artist walk in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. I presented research as part of both of these venues.</p> |
|---|--|

**Quotes**  
In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.

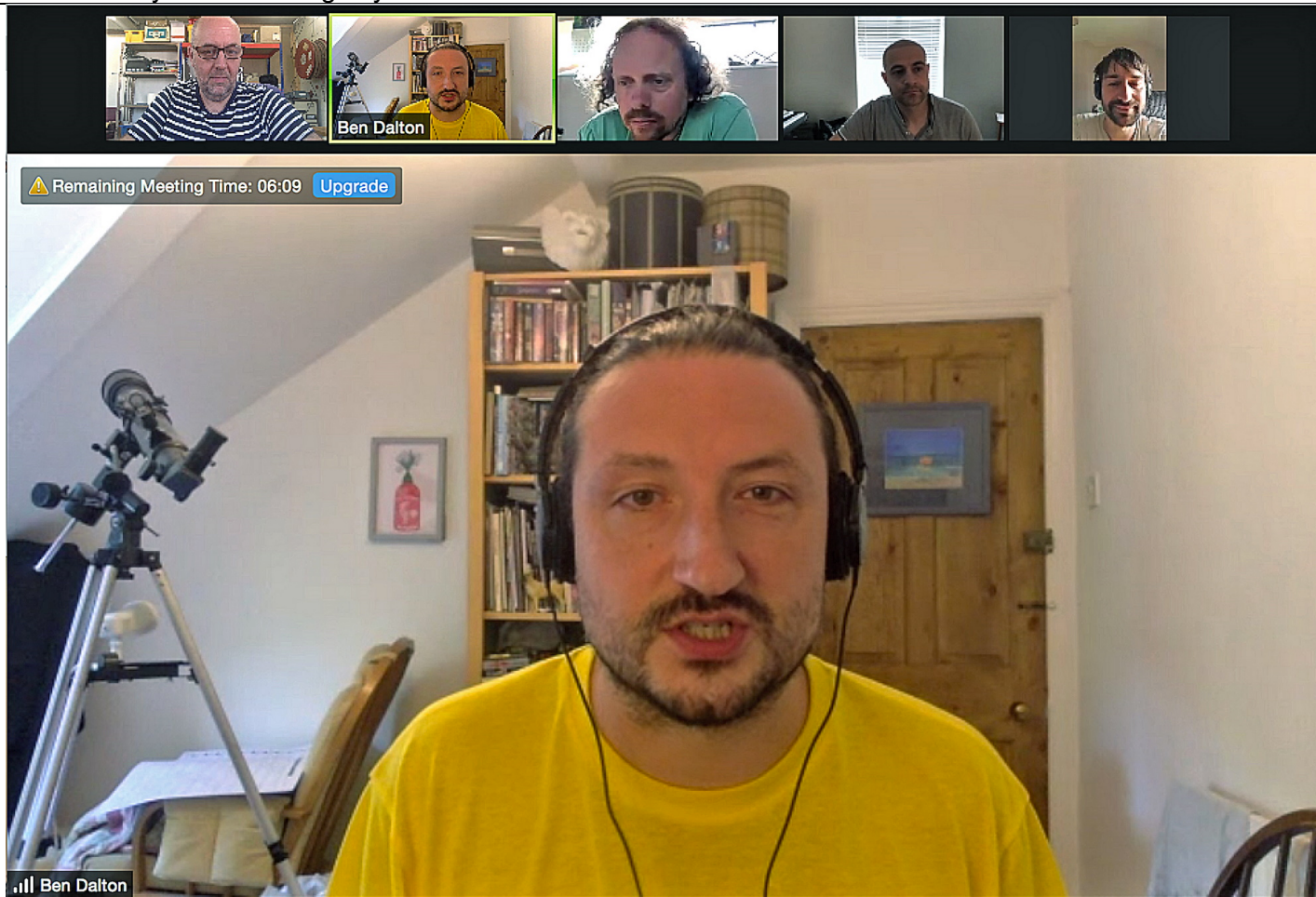
“the thing about proof of concept is that if no one proves it, it’s just another sketch in your notepad. About a week after the end of the Lab, Ben Dalton asked to come back to have another play with the prototype for the visual poetry machine. He talked about the idea that maybe CCTV could be trained and built a whole series of cardboard towers on the floor of the studio. He then placed the six cameras into this architectural space and told the programme that every time it saw the colour red, it should turn away. The proof of concept started to take shape – when the little square of red paper appeared around the corner



of the cardboard skyscrapers, the cameras began to change, almost shuddering and then turning away to avert their gaze from the colour red.” – Benedict Phillips, Disability Arts Online reflection

### Images

In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.





“A.jpg- screenshot from one of the regular weekly tech development meetings between Benedict with, Ben Dalton, Dave Lynch and Christophe de Bezenac from Immersive Networks and Andrey Pissantchev.”

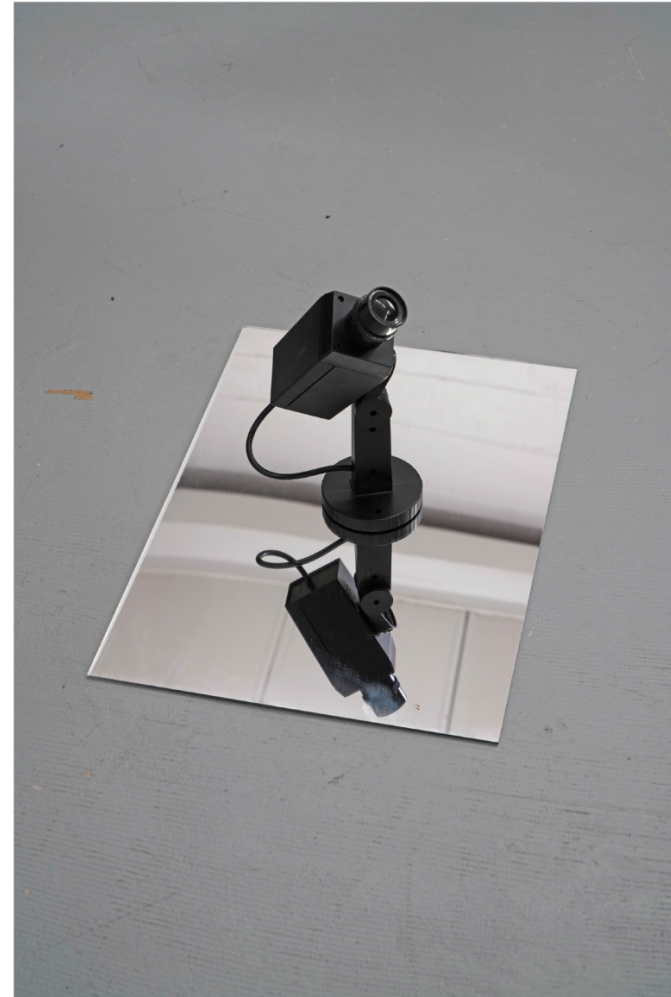


“Ben Dalton experimenting with the cctv in the studio and with an online feed. Phot by Benedict Phillips”



“group discussion in the studio with two people on laptops and five in the room. Photo by Benedict Phillips”





Photographer: Benedict Phillips