

Stephanie Black 2016
Proposal for Illustration Research Symposium

Plume of Feathers: Exploration the contemporary Moon Under Water through illustration

This paper will explore illustrative response to urban landscapes, their meaning determined by human use, and illustration's role in reconfiguring this by presenting alternative representations.

It is based on and will show parts of a research-led project on the decline of the public house in the UK, which takes the form of visual essays projected with the live performance of a 'concept album' on this theme. This presentation will examine the relationship between illustration, subject matter and companion piece (music) and by doing so will employ theoretical perspectives concerned with 'open works' and nostalgia in order to articulate the contribution to the project made by the projections. The practice discussed operates as informed voice within the conversation, regularly offering a counterpoint to create illustration that welcomes critical thinking in response to the diverse perspectives presented. This is made relevant to recent European political events through the discussion of the role of nostalgia in relation to the dominant representations of the pub in circulation, reinforcing the need for informed illustration to help us question, understand and contribute to the post-Brexit, post-factual world we live in.