

Timothy Thomasson

Bird Watching

2 Nov - 1 Dec 2024

Opening Reception 2 Nov 2024, 8.00pm

Press Release

Queensway Television is pleased to present *Bird Watching* by Montreal-based artist Timothy Thomasson. The work, a 3D computer animation, presents images of birds. As a study of movement, the animation—manually modelled through 3D modelling and animation software—draws from close direct observation of real bird behaviour.

The title highlights the iconic simulation of its subject, emphasising the virtuality of the bird representations. Birds are commonly encountered, particularly in urban environments. This work focuses on their movement, inviting sensitivity and attention to the bird's subtle, familiar gestures. Throughout the animation, the virtual birds gradually deviate from typical behaviour, engaging in grotesque and unconventional acts—such as consuming seemingly inedible objects and navigating unexpected environments.

In stark contrast to the hyper-anthropomorphic or science-fiction animations commonly seen in computer-generated media, Thomasson's animated birds retain their avian behaviour despite being placed in atypical contexts. This approach replicates situations that, while peculiar, are still within the confines of the familiar.

By unfolding gradually, the animation challenges the current trend of instantaneously generated images and videos made possible by rapidly evolving generative technologies. Unlike the endlessly reiterative mechanisms through which generative technologies operate, the artist paid careful attention to the minute movements of referenced birds. Detail and movement are painstakingly crafted in a frame-by-frame animation technique. While the 3D animation techniques used in this work are still relatively new when considering the broader history of visual media, the exponential "progress" of new technologies has now made it anachronistic when compared to the generative artificial intelligence that can generate raster images in an instant.

The title underscores the iconic simulation of its subject, emphasising the virtual representation of birds, whose likeness is captured computationally. The behaviour of Thomasson's birds thus both allegorises and challenges the prevailing currents of computer-generated animation, in which technological accelerationism has catalysed the mutation of the familiar into the strange. Yet, it encourages the viewer to observe with a careful, incisive eye.

Artist Biography

Timothy Thomasson is a Montreal-based artist. His work questions the ways in which moving images are produced and consumed in historical and contemporary contexts, looking particularly at the effects of computer-generated images and emerging technologies on society, culture, aesthetics, and perception. His work has been exhibited at numerous galleries and media festivals internationally.

For more information please DM us on Instagram @queenswaytelevision, or e-mail dd@dddd.pictures