

Yuuki Horiuchi

Imitation. Fire. Place

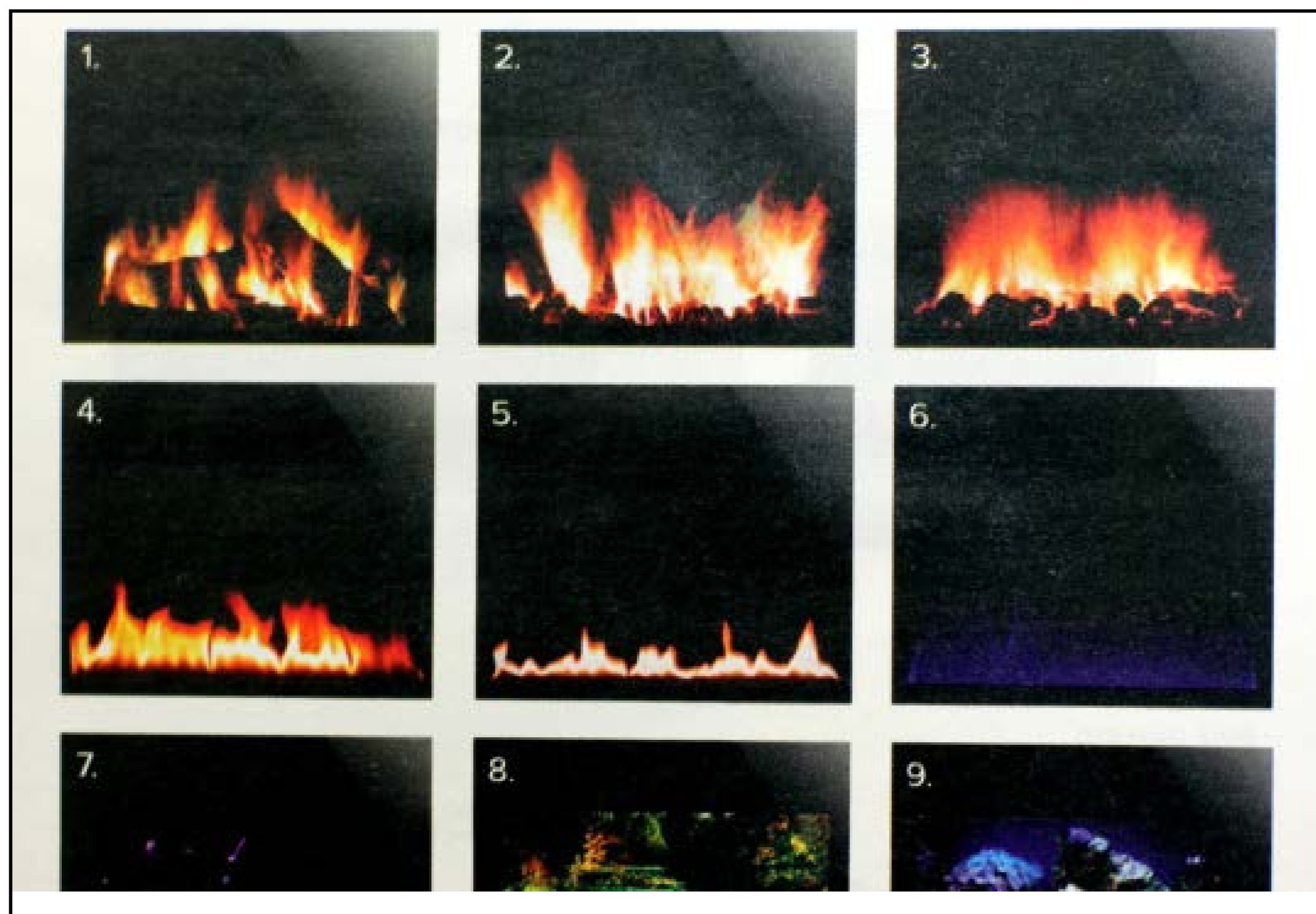
6th – 12th June, 2018

As part of the exchange between the CSM Associate Studio Programme and Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo; Yuuki Horiuchi is presenting a display of work-in-progress in the Vitrine at CSM.

Yuuki has spent six weeks in London working in the Elephant & Castle studio, while Alice Jacobs, one of the Associates from the Stockwell studio, spends the same period in Tokyo. On their return Kenta Kowagoe will arrive from Tokyo, swapping with Tuli Litvak from London. This collection of work-in-progress pursues Yuuki's research into the everyday rituals of gathering and sociability.

Yuuki Horiuchi is a Japanese artist who uses various forms including installation, 8mm film, photography and drawing.

Writing about her work in London Yuuki says: "I've been shooting some videos of imitation fireplaces in DIY stores. They were clustered together on the huge display shelves, one above the other, and were all working even though it was the hottest day in May. But of course, the imitation fireplace doesn't heat the store, not does it illuminate it. So, if its purpose is to create an ambience, and perhaps a visual focal point in a much smaller do-



mestic interior what function it has is denied it in the shop.

For a long while I have been interested in why people are attracted to fire and flames, and why people need (or least want) the imitation fireplace even when it doesn't provide heat and light? Is its appeal in the way we can use it as an alibi or focal point for sociability and gath-

ering together – particularly of the family in the home (a role the fireplace might have once played, to be usurped by the television, which has now lost out to the smartphone and the computer)? Is it a reflection on our detachment from the elements, produced by modern urban life? Is it an attempt to return to something more 'simple', more 'fundamental'?

Despite the obvious pretense we seem willing to overlook the artificiality of these pieces of interior decoration and allow ourselves to be a little bit entranced. As someone who lives in Tokyo, a very dense, busy and sometimes stressful place, I am also a person who is attracted to these things (while also recognising that they are just imitations).

This moment of fascination, reverent or whatever it is that attracts and holds us here is exactly what I want to make happen in this space."

In the work-in-progress presented in the Vitrine Yuuki recreates and extends the distance between a real fire and its simulation, with the video image (and the screen itself as an object) acting as both another imitation fireplace, and a record of the excessive staging of them in the DIY store display. Playing on a loop the video crosses and re-crosses the line dividing these two 'places'.

This is coupled with references to the temporary 'place' of the dinner table (with the table cloth marking another 'centre for a gathering'). The assemblage also includes postcard images bought in London junk shops, and other found images from the CSM Library, onto which mysterious patterns are plotted. They resemble star charts or contour lines as if they are mapping or divining other hidden patterns or places.

Yuuki Horiuchi
yuukihoriuchi.tumblr.com

Thanks to: Andy Marsh (Curator in Practice, BA Culture, Criticism and Curation, CSM); Mark Dunhill; Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo; Kaori Homma; John Seth (4D Pathway Leader, BA Fine Art, CSM).

About the Associate Studio Programme.

Developed in partnership with Acme Studios CSM's Associate Studio Programme provides highly affordable studio space in our Stockwell and Elephant & Castle studios to a total of twenty CSM BA Fine Art graduates, for two years. Directed by Graham Ellard, Professor of Fine Art, the Programme is now in its fifth year - the Stockwell studio having opened in 2013. The Programme includes studio visits by artists, curators and writers nominated by the Associates themselves.

The exchange with Youkobo Art Space in Tokyo has developed out of a relationship with Youkobo and Tokyo Geidai (Tokyo University of the Arts) and is now in its fourth year.

www.doubleagents.org.uk

www.youkobo.co.jp

www.acme.org.uk