DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER

**CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES SHOWCASE 2013**

Institute of Creative Technologies

## Research and Creative Technology

Creative practice, in areas such as performance, the Internet, art, design or music, increasingly depends on technology and the technologies themselves are highly creative.

The IOCT at DMU offers a flexible postgraduate programme in which creative artefacts (web sites, paintings, performances, etc) or significant documentation of such artefacts, are central to the research. The definition of an artefact is very broad, ranging from an object such as a painting or telephone to an abstract entity such as a novel or a computer program or a transient entity such as a performance.

DMU pioneered practice-based research degrees in the 1970s, as then Leicester Polytechnic, and has developed a significant programme of such degrees ever since. The Institute of Creative Technologies (IOCT) was created in 2006, and since then has led transdisciplinary research integrating art, humanities and science across the Faculties in the University. Equally it has promoted collaboration with the creative industries, in Leicester and internationally, opening spaces for community outreach, academic dialogue and experimentation with technologies.

## PhD and Masters by Research

The research programme led by the IOCT includes a strong supportive set of courses to support practice-based research and operates at both Masters and PhD levels. Study may be full or part time and may also be conducted overseas on a full time basis in certain circumstances. The subject areas include Dance, Design, Drama, Fine Art, Music, Information Technology, Performing Arts and Photography. Most of the research projects have been integrated into areas such as Creative Computing, Interactive Arts and Media, and Networks and Collaboration.

ioct.dmu.ac.uk

# Masters in Creative Technologies

**The brochure shows examples of Masters level work produced for the Institute of Creative Technologies Masters Showcase 2013.**

This group of students has engaged in the collaborative act of creating a public event that showcases the diversity of their creations and thoughts involving creative technologies. Working with people from different backgrounds has been both challenging and inspiring for them. With backgrounds in computer science, psychology, fine arts and music technology, they have been sharing their interest in creating with, and reflecting on, both current and old technologies.

These are challenging times for grasping the overwhelming options that technologies offer for the creation, documentation, and distribution of knowledge.

At the same time, the rapid changes in tools and programming languages demand wide frames of reference and the development of new skills. It is a time in which strong original and creative ideas need to be stated in order to establish a balance between the fascination that technologies can provoke, and the creative use we make of these.

All the work the students have produced crosses traditional boundaries, demonstrating their wide range of skills as programmers, artists, designers and scientists.

As areas 'between' traditional disciplines grow, the modern Masters student needs a portfolio of skills and knowledge to enhance their employability.

The IOCT talented Masters students are uniquely equipped for this future world, having gained an insight into a range of transdisciplinary methods and practices drawn from a number of Faculties across De Montfort University.

This has been an inspiring year for all of us involved in the Masters programme, reflected in the thought provoking work showcased at the IOCT and sampled in this brochure.

The work shown here illustrates the Masters level work that our students achieve. They often go on to even more exciting developments through the practice-based PhD programme.

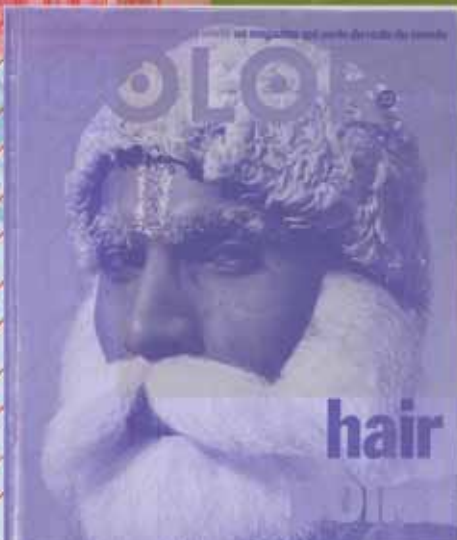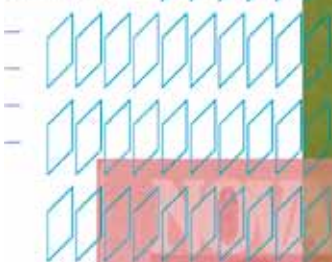SHOWCASE WEBSITE: **www.ioct.info**

# John Crawford

I am a graphic designer and art director with over 20 years experience providing design solutions, strategy and consultancy to the corporate, cultural and publishing sectors. Along the way I have been nominated for three D&AD awards.

I currently work at De Montfort University as a Senior Lecturer on the BA (hons) Graphic Design course. My teaching is centered on design process, the craft of graphic design, typography and professional practice.

To develop my practice and research I am doing a Masters at the IOCT. My research interests concern the use of typography and visual rhetoric. Based on my experience in editorial design I am currently exploring the use of archived editorial content and the potential for readers to create personalised publications. My intent is to create an editorial portal where users browse, create, recommend and read. This could be seen as an exploration of the 'long tail' theory and of particular interest would be exploration of niche content.
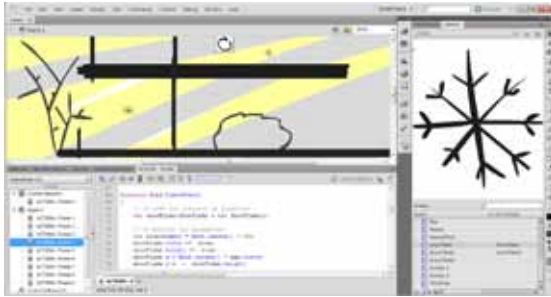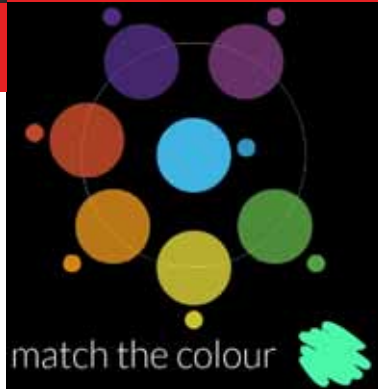
I cycle most days and think 15mph is a good speed to think. I particularly enjoy cycling up hills.

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interviews
illustration
reportage
commentry
fashion

hair

## Romain Goadec

match the colour



Coming from a science and IT environment, I decided to re-orientate my knowledge due to my aim of working as a website designer. I enrolled in the Masters in Creative Technologies to get more experience and think about a challenging and unique path I could take.

In the IOCT I have not only learnt new programming languages, but also how to work on artistic projects with people of various backgrounds and differing views.

With my interest in interactivity and games, my final project will be dedicated to produce a storytelling mini-game.

In the showcase, where the most interesting projects of each person are displayed, I am presenting a mini-game in Flash, where visual displays are created using processing and also a self-controlled voice handler.

I always aim to surprise. For me it is the most effective and enjoyable way to make people take interest in your work.

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I am a musician and a music technologist. Since starting out in performance, I've been teaching music technology for a number of years. I have a wealth of experience in traditional recording practice, though my area of particular expertise is electronic music, for which I use cutting edge production tools for composition and remixing. I am developing my work in computer based music, exploring the relationships between sound and music, image and colour, perception and location.

Working with the MAX programming environment I am creating a range of experimental processes which encourage users to interact with and explore these relationships. These processes are leading to the development of a range of standalone production tools, which may be of interest to musicians, composers and performers.

An extension to this work is the exploration of the potential for using tangible user interfaces to help break apart traditional approaches to music mixing and composition.

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# Dan Livesey

## Tanya Jones

After moving to Nottingham in the late 90's I achieved a HND in Music Technology and soon I started teaching the subject. Through teaching I found a talent for sharing information in an informal, friendly fashion, while maintaining a confident authority. To further my passion I decided to study for a CertEd at Bedfordshire University.

In need of a change in scenery I moved to Greece. There I worked with a diverse group of artists, in major studios and at the city's concert hall, working closely with the orchestra, recording and mixing rehearsals and performances. Involved with festivals and musical conferences I gained a wealth of experience in serving musicians and artists.

As a side project I helped to establish a school for disenfranchised girls from the oppressed Romany community, established to empower youth to make decisions based on moral judgments.

Now back in England, I am working as a lecturer and studying for a Masters in Creative Technologies at DMU to help develop my creative and academic skills.

I have developed a liking for documentary making and pride myself on choosing appropriate and moving music.

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**Godfrey Oluikpe**

I am a designer, an entrepreneur and a technologist.

My professional career and training has crisscrossed disciplines like education, management, health sciences and community development.

The Masters in Creative Technologies has helped me acquire specific skills and competencies but also infuse multidisciplinary perspective which is highly required in my work.

My skills and areas of interest cover but are not limited to video and studio production, sound production, graphics, web design and development, human computer interaction and interactivity above all the business side of creative business.

Some of my works so far include brand management for a start-up business, a documentary on black student community in Leicester, a prototype for a web-based app for collaboration. I am also exploring sound data processing and the interactivity between sound and image using an interactive software - Max/Msp/jitter.

I like to explore and play with ideas using different tools and technologies and this helps to stir the creative side of me. I believe that everybody is inherently creative and that the flame of creativity is fanned at all times in life through different experiences.

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# Ogi Zahariev

I am a recent Computer Science graduate applying the scientific theories I have learned into practice, working with multimedia and visual art. In the past I have worked on various programming and web development projects in collaboration with other students as well as on my own, even winning a Best Group Project Award from IBM in my second year as an undergraduate.

It was that passion for collaboration which brought me to the IOCT where I have become interested in video production, special effects and multimedia applications as well as marketing.

Working on a range of multimedia projects and sharing creative ideas with others on the course has made me fall in love with the various aspects of creative technologies and I intend to continue my work in a similar field on a professional level once I graduate.

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**Alice Tuppen**





My research-based artistic practice explores notions of intimacy, identity and communication. Interactive technologies connect video, performance and sculptural artworks in specific locations; navigating through mediated, actual and imagined landscapes. The work assumes a dialogical space, positioning the audience, artist and artworks as both participants and observers, poised somewhere between immersion and a more self-conscious, knowing state. Such embodiments seek to understand individuals' lived experiences and offer a space for conversation, contemplation and connection.

I find the IOCT Masters a nurturing place of dialogue and exchange in which I seek to continue my studies to PhD level. This will support my lecturing roles in Higher Education.

My experience is drawn from education at Goldsmiths College, Slade School of Fine Art and in Art Psychotherapy, Drama and Education and also from television production for the BBC, Sky, CNN and Discovery. I am presently Co-Founder and Director of Youniverse Digital producing design for the Publishing, Entertainment and Arts sectors.

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## Mike Uwins

I am a songwriter, music producer and self-proclaimed audio geek.

As a wannabe popstar growing up in the 1980s, I always wanted to know the answer to the question, 'What exactly do music fans love about their favourite records?'.

Is it all about the tune? The harmony? The melody? How important is the sound quality? What goes on inside our minds? How do we process and understand sound? Are there other factors in play, such as aesthetics, fashion or culture? How does technology shape the way in which we enjoy sonic art?

The purpose of my research is to undertake an investigation of the listener experience, which will help to inform not only my own work as a producer, but also to provide marketing intelligence for the music industry.

My showcase installation invites the listener to interact with music in a variety of formats and environments, allowing them to discover and explore their own preferences.

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For more information on the show, visit our Showcase website at **www.ioct.info**
Or for more information on the IOCT, visit our main website at **ioct.dmu.ac.uk**

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