

Yuri Pattison

*clock speed (the world on time)*

13 May – 2 July 2022

Yuri Pattison's exhibition *clock speed (the world on time)*, at mother's tankstation, London explores notions of temporality, artifice, and (re)presentation. The status of time as a fundamental aspect of the universe has been the subject of debate among physicists since the late nineteenth century. 'Time's Arrow', the ostensibly objective metaphor for the action of entropy, suggests a kind of universality to the nature of time. Nevertheless, time is experienced subjectively, and this experience is quantised, managed, and enforced through regimes of politics and power; temporal economies have other, more personal faces. From the concept of the 'attention economy', adumbrated by [Davenport and Beck](#), extended as 'ambient' informational acculturation by [Malcolm McCullough](#), as well as the newsfeeds consumed by social media users in their 'timelines', the ways in which information is distributed, represented, and symbolised within time exert major impacts on understandings of temporality. As the psychologist [Virginie van Wassenhove](#)'s research has discussed, the relationship of subjectivity to time is not simply a matter of linear experience, but also the valences attached to specific forms of information. In *clock speed* Pattison critically explores these sites of perceptual and material contestation.

In *clock speed (the dead)*, [all works 2022], Pattison examines the way machine intelligence understands and recapitulates representations of time: A 'clock' is constructed by probing stock image categories within DeepMind's BigGAN - revealing what the engineers at DeepMind (GoogleAlphabet) believe constitute the *modern world*. The militarised infrastructural components of modernity, including tanks, oil rigs, and warplanes punctuate abstract images of clock faces. Systems such as DeepMind 'understand' how a clock looks, but not what it does, or why; such agnosticism creates a surface coherency which licenses forward structural progression without meaningful knowledge, recapitulating past power dynamics to create a necrotic cycle. The geopolitics of time are a central feature of *world clock, reflector timeline (east)*, and *world clock, reflector timeline (west)*. These large, wall-based panel works are activated by frequencies from the USA's GPS service and GLONASS, Russia's satellite navigation system. Signals are received via GNSS receivers and converted to audible range using circuits built by a former timing technician from the Greenwich Maritime Museum, then amplified. Emitting a low volume hum that permeates the space - evoking the kind of ambient presence infrastructural time exerts over geopolitical space. Both panels visually present collages of found and original images as abstracted and subjective timelines intersecting the pandemic, the Ukraine war, and images from Pattison's own life.

Personal narratives are also at the heart of *cuttings*, a sculpture featuring a rudimentary model of a Khrushchyovka. While the work is of a specific Khrushchyovka where Pattison's grandmother's family lived, the format was widely used in Soviet-era building for the production of units that defined a literal 'standard' of living for generations. Within this replica is a large cutting from an Aloe plant smuggled from Ukraine to Ireland and now to London (via Paris) taken from the original generation at Pattison's grandmother's home. The building in *cuttings* is rendered using Google Street View and Pattison's own memories of the space, and is housed in metal standardised pallets, drawing connections to earlier works by Pattison involving these structures. Within the work, a sunlight simulation lamp serves as a light box for a photograph of Pattison's grandmother's flat. This dimension also serves as a means of illuminating the plant which appears to grow through two rendered pallets the forms of which are based on the original Khrushchyovka; thus the plant can appear to sprout from the sculpture, or from the building itself, depending on how it is viewed. As a last touch, the soil in which the cutting is potted is 'enriched' using shredded Euro notes, inscribing the complex economic dynamics at play with regard to housing in both the post-Soviet space and in Western Europe where various countries' housing markets have become money sinks for wealth of uncertain provenance.

The manifestation of information as ideology and symbol is one of the key themes of *barricades (books by the metre)*, which takes its title from bespoke book purchasing services that deliver large quantities of books with prices based on size. Pattison conceptualised the work watching political interviews in which shelves of books appear in the background of images. These deeply ideological representations of home environments often can be seen in information flows from the Ukraine war, some of which featured images of civilian dwellings using piles of books as a means of defending themselves against flying glass generated by Russian bombing. The books in Pattison's installation are wrapped in plain jackets, and, thus, appear interchangeable, alluding to both the ostensible 'reality' of the interview backdrops and the alternative uses of the materiality of books as technologies in Ukraine. The work considers the book as a technology as well as a material object. The informational content symbolically presumed by displaying a book is belied by the books' visual neutralisation reflecting the strange position of the hyper-informed yet disempowered subject characteristic of the present political moment. Information as prophylaxis, or even defense, has come to mean little in an age of relentless infrastructural enclosure of politics and power.