

PRESS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / 1 JULY 2024

The Nightwatchers Emerge From the Shadows as Andy Bullock Unveils the Mass Observation Project via a New Dedicated Website



In a world where *Artificial Intelligence* (AI) relentlessly consumes every fragment of data, Andy Bullock (*aka Andy B*), a multidisciplinary artist working out of Oxford, UK, poses the logical question; ***who feeds the machine?***

Bullock's **Mass Observation** project, which takes its name from the 1937 social research experiment, profoundly investigates the pervasive and often invisible forces that shape our lives in this evolving age of AI. And as these technologies advance, institutions, both governmental and corporate, increasingly use them to monitor and influence human behaviour. Bullock's often confrontational work asks us to meet these developments head-on as he prompts us to consider a broad spectrum of concepts that challenge trust, control, belief etc., and reminds us of the very nature of surveillance itself.

Central to the **Mass Observation** project are the *Nightwatcher™* sculptures; these part human, part sci-fi angels, with their CCTV camera heads are part of the *imagined mythology* that Bullock has created. These other-worldly beings are the *agents of AI* scraping data in the online and offline worlds to feed the AI machine. And without prescribing them as inherently positive or negative,

he raises the important question; are they our guardian angels, or malevolent demons watching our every move? Bullock invites viewers to engage with the facts and form their own interpretations.

With these works he brings a unique perspective to the forefront of contemporary art, delving into themes that resonate deeply with the uncertainties and realities of our modern society in this *age of deep-surveillance*. As we anxiously think about opportunities or threats AI can expose, this extensive body of work (paintings, prints, sculpture, installation) emerges as a critical artistic exploration of these transformative times. His work emphasises the urgent need to understand how these forces impact our security and privacy, agency and autonomy and the very essence of the human experience itself.

Mass Observation represents a specific aspect of Bullock's broader vision. His overarching body of work explores the complex connections humans make with themselves, with each other, and with their environment. This project stands as a crucial element within his extensive exploration of these intricate connections, highlighting his unique ability to blend scientific insights with artistic expression. Through Mass Observation's provocative concept and his compelling creations, Bullock establishes himself as a crucial commentator on the defining issues of our era.

In 2024 only one thing is certain - Big Brother is doing more than just watching us.

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