



Room 103

Group Exhibition

Garry Barker

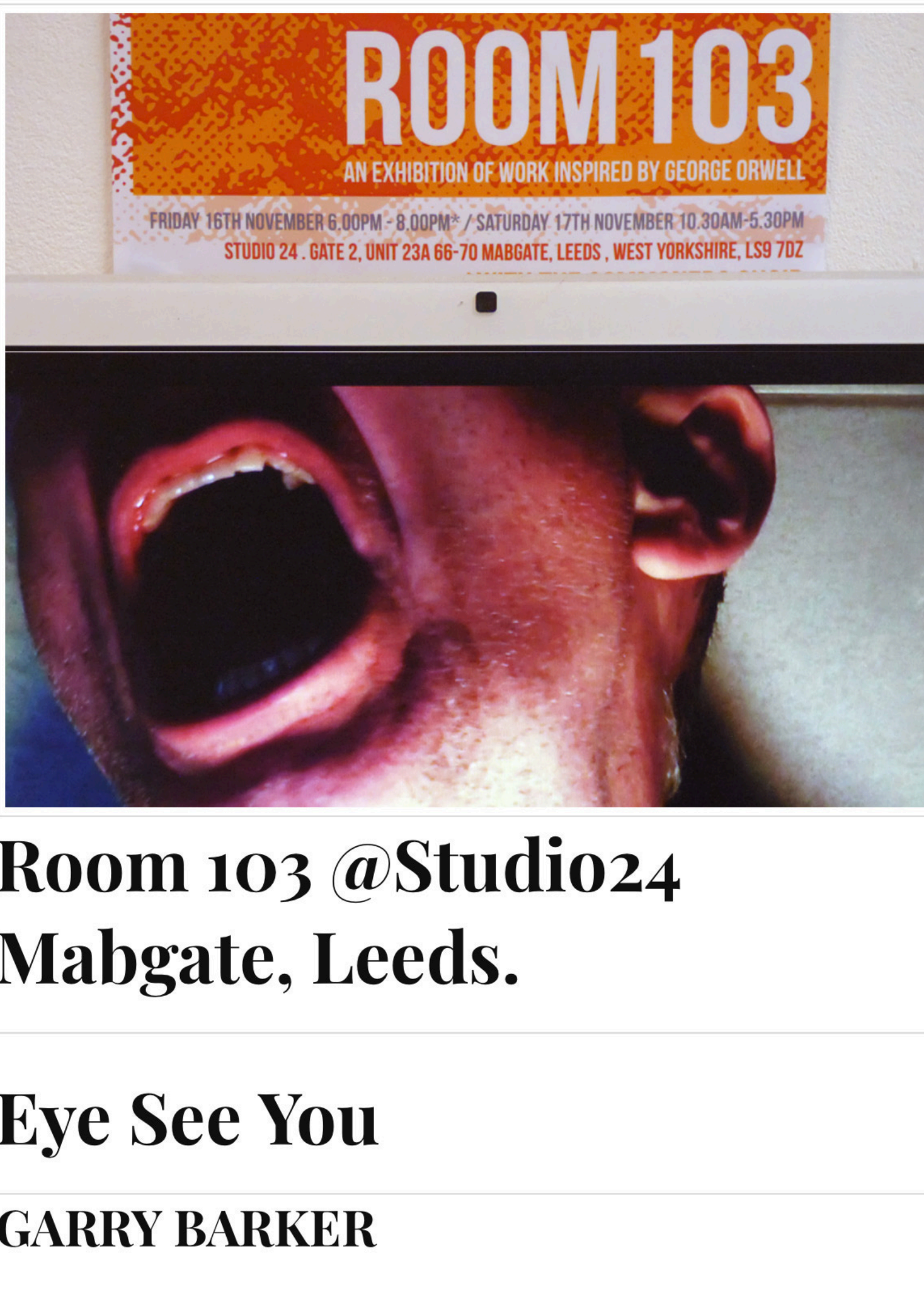
A peer reviewed exhibition whereby artists were selected in response to their ability to illustrate or interrogate aspects of society that George Orwell would have recognised as being relevant to Orwellian themes.

The exhibition was reported on in the George Orwell studies magazine and the works selected for exhibition were mentioned in the review by Glen Ibbotson.

This exhibition allowed me to present aspects of practice that were more focused on the development of imagery that was designed to have a more 'mythic' presence. Images derived initially from conversations with people about society, were taken through a process of simplification through drawing and were then pushed back into the subconscious by losing and then rediscovering the image. The selected images were extracted from an iterative process that produced several drawings all related to the theme of surveillance. Working in charcoal on hand made paper also allowed the images to develop a more materially focused message, the deep blacks and rough surface texture suggestive of an almost animal or animist presence, these imaginative drawings being derived from drawings that were in their first manifestation objective drawings of rocks.

Exhibition

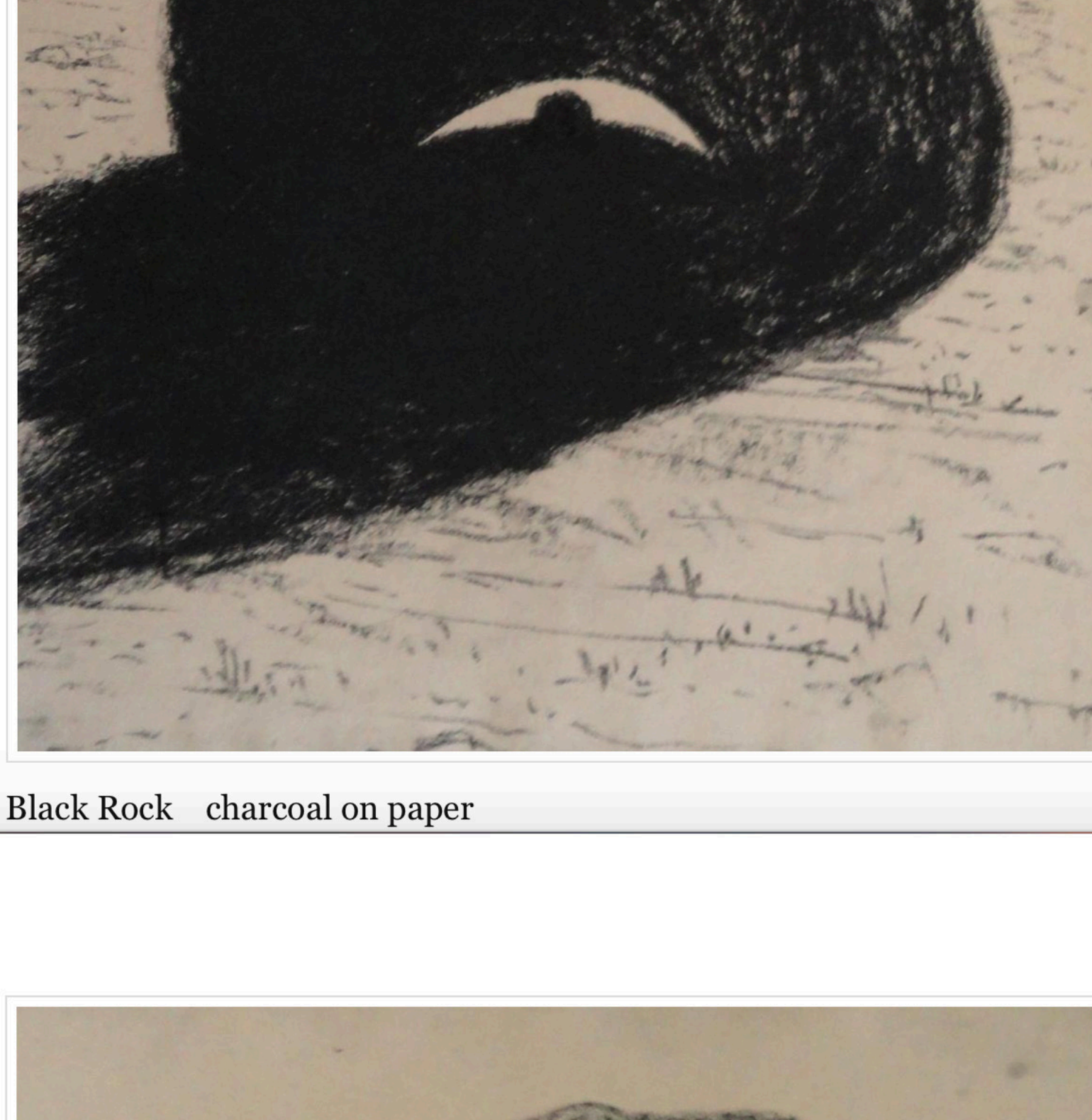
Room 103, Studio 24, Leeds, 16 November - 17 November 2018.



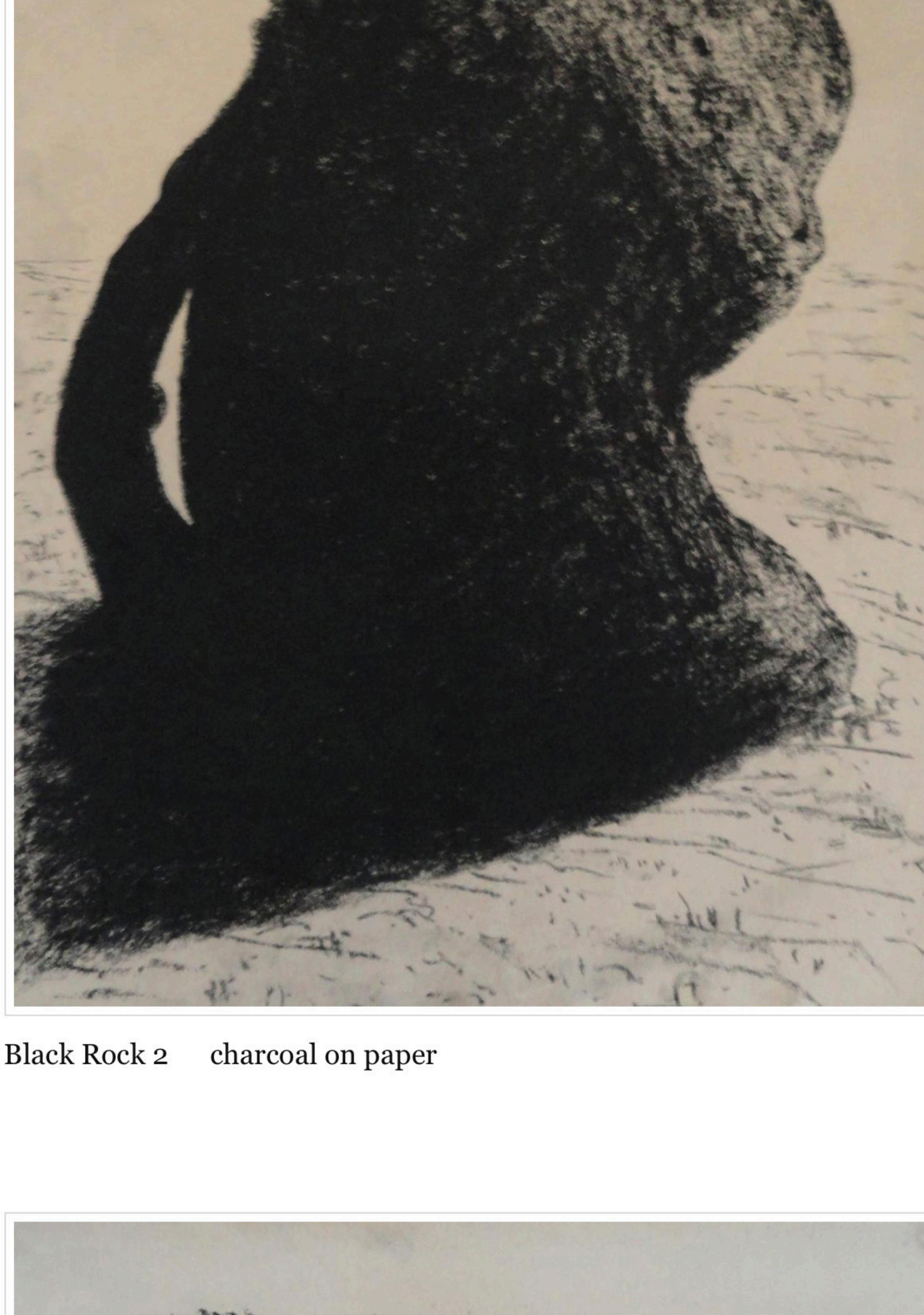
Room 103 @Studio24 Mabgate, Leeds.

Eye See You

GARRY BARKER



Black Rock charcoal on paper



Black Rock 2 charcoal on paper



Corn Eye Black charcoal on paper



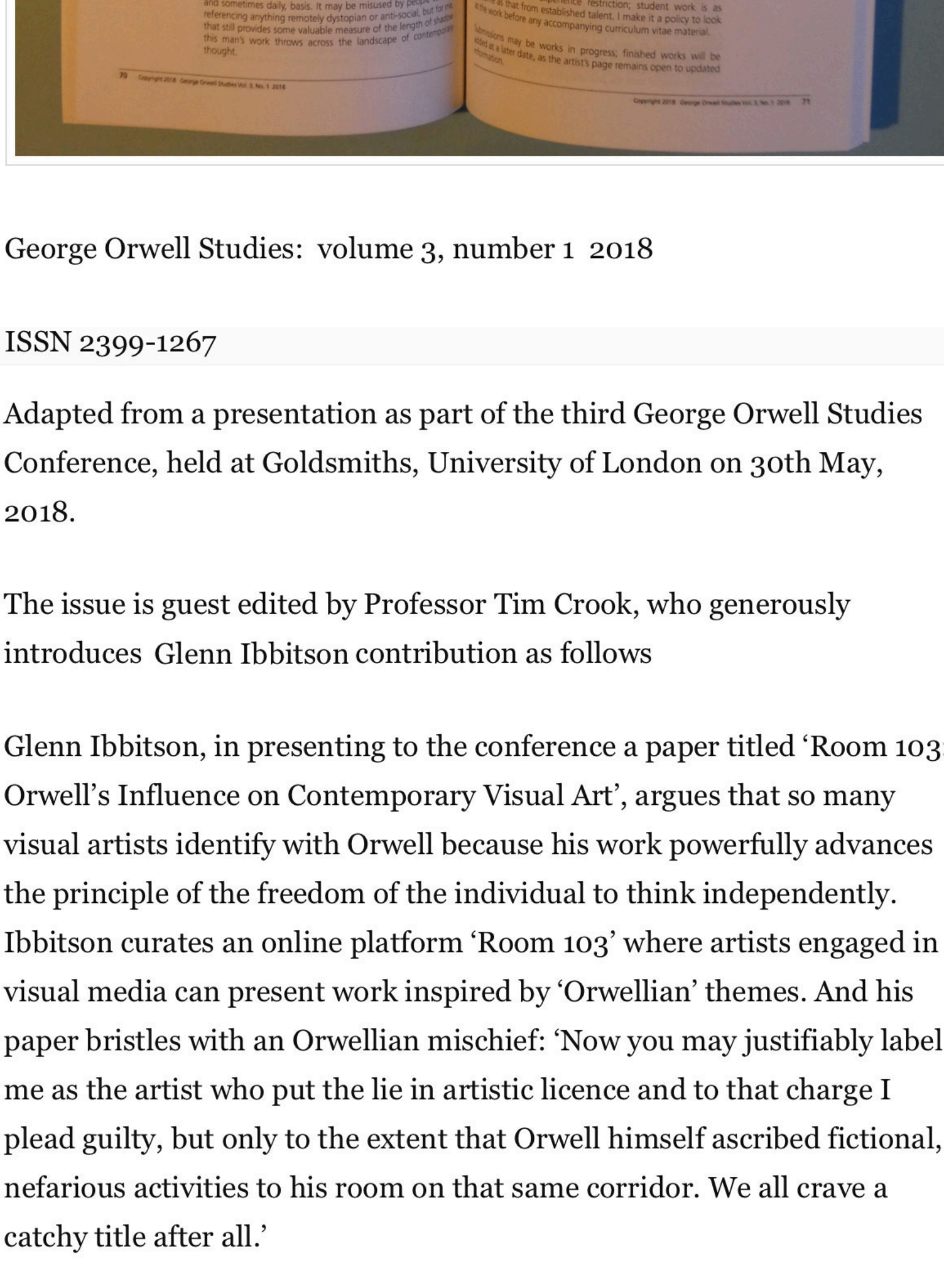
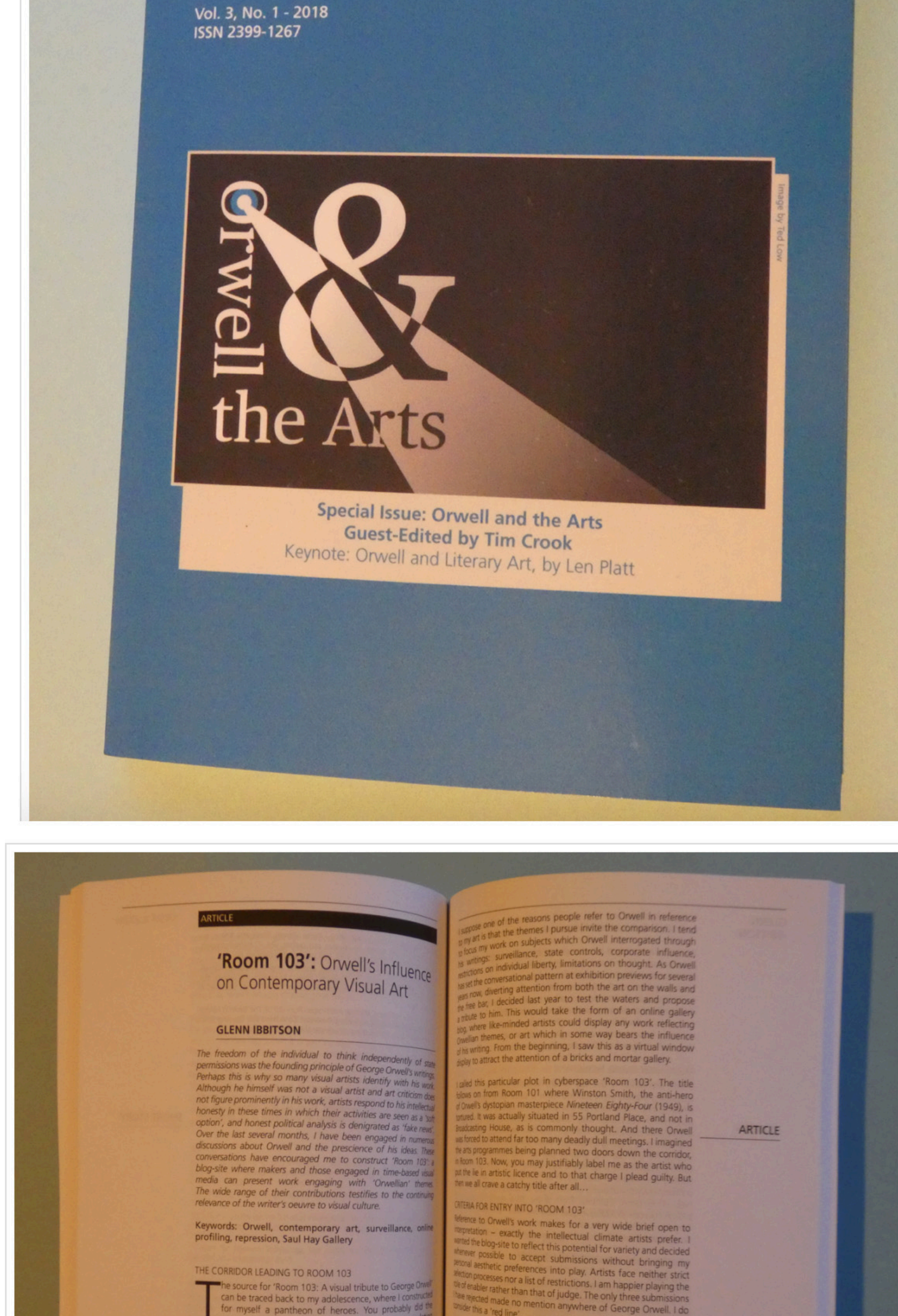
Joined at the Neck digital print

Artist statement:

“The surveillance society was a term first used in 1985, a fact that would have fascinated Orwell. He would no doubt have been truly mortified to find out that Cambridge Analytics were now trading in the results of political manipulation via data mining and psychological profiling, together with fear mongering and the development of sophisticated mass media hosted social control systems. All that he prophesied has come true and perhaps most worrying has been the corrosion of language, so that words no longer mean what they used to mean. Politicians and big business can say one thing and mean another, they look down on those who still believe in some sort of ‘truth’ and as people of power feel it is their right to define what reality is. This dark period of our history will need its images and if they are the right ones perhaps they might help in a late rear-guard action, designed to remind the world of how once cherished ideals are now sold off by the media frenzy of late capitalism. These images are made in response to conversations held with others who are becoming more and more worried by the rise of a society that is shaped by capital and manipulated by media constructed fear.”



Garry Barker: “Eye See You..”



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Adapted from a presentation as part of the third George Orwell Studies Conference, held at Goldsmiths, University of London on 30th May, 2018.

The issue is guest edited by Professor Tim Crook, who generously introduces Glenn Ibbitson contribution as follows

Glenn Ibbitson, in presenting to the conference a paper titled ‘Room 103: Orwell’s Influence on Contemporary Visual Art’, argues that so many visual artists identify with Orwell because his work powerfully advances the principle of the freedom of the individual to think independently. Ibbitson curates an online platform ‘Room 103’ where artists engaged in visual media can present work inspired by ‘Orwellian’ themes. And his paper bristles with an Orwellian mischief: ‘Now you may justifiably label me as the artist who put the lie in artistic licence and to that charge I plead guilty, but only to the extent that Orwell himself ascribed fictional, nefarious activities to his room on that same corridor. We all crave a catchy title after all.’

Artists whose contributions to ‘Room 103’ were cited in the presentation are:

Tony Baker,

Paul Steffan Jones

Antoni Garcia Serrat

Kerry Baldry

Mary M. Mazziotti

Paul Salt and Sue Shaw

Alan Pergusey

Nigel Pugh

Liam Ainscough

Garry Barker

Dave Stephens