The output consists of two sets of paintings that were included in the following two related exhibitions: ‘Phase III Le Modulor’, Galerie HLM, Marseilles, and ‘Phase IV Intersections: Art/Architecture’, Stephen Lawrence Gallery, University of Greenwich, London.

Research process

Virgoe was invited to exhibit in ‘Phase III Le Modulor’ in Marseilles, 2019. For this a new body of work was produced, which responded to the 1948 text by LeCorbusier, and to be exhibited in the town where the Unite D’Habitation was realised. ‘Phase IV’ brought together artists from the UK and France along with ‘Outside Architecture’ research group from the University of Greenwich.

Research insights

For the first exhibition Virgoe produced a series of paintings using a loosely modulor system of repeated units within the paintings, which to some extent reflect the adaptations that LeCorbusier himself made to his system. These were conceived as a series in a grid format, and as such bear a relationship to the numerous layout iterations in the text. For ‘Phase IV’, Virgoe exhibited four paintings that consider the space between architecture and abstraction.

Dissemination

Phase III was a group exhibition at Galerie HLM, Marseilles, and Phase IV was a group exhibition at the Stephen Lawrence Gallery, Greenwich.
Phase III — Le Modulor

Phase III — Le Modulor, is the third exhibition in a series of four (Cambridge, Toulouse, Marseille, London) organized by Benet Spencer and David Ryan from Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, exploring the relationship between painting, drawing and architecture. Phase III is developed in partnership with Les Beaux-Arts de Marseille, the public art school of this city, and with the participants of its research seminar ARC Modulor. Collaborative partners also include the University of Greenwich, London and Réseau Peinture which is a research network between art schools and universities in Europe.

The presence in Marseille of Le Corbusier’s famous building La Cité Radieuse is the main background of this exhibition. More specifically, a key starting point is an interest in the Modulor, an anthropometric scale of proportions created by Le Corbusier in 1948 and used within his Unité d’habitation buildings. The Modulor embodies a “range of harmonious measurements on a human scale, universally applicable to architecture”. Located within a Western humanist tradition which goes back to Protagoras “Man, a measure of all things”, and subsequently revived in Leonardo da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man, Le Corbusier’s Modulor can be read as an updated version of a masculine universalism. It represents as a normative the body of a man of 1.83 m, around whom Le Corbusier conceived the structure and the size of the “housing units”.

After one year of work, the participants of the ARC Modulor decided to build a wooden structure which is deliberately cumbersome. This structure, constructed with the help of the staff of Les Beaux-Arts de Marseille is physically and conceptually an introduction to the theme. It refers to the measurements of an apartment in Le Corbusier’s “Unité d’habitation”.

The space of the gallery “HLM” is thus restructured and allows to cohabit pieces by:
- David Ryan, Benet Spencer and their guests, Bernice Donszelmann, Jaime Gilli, Olivier Gourvil, Tim Renshaw, Anna Salamon, April Virgoe, Daniela Yaneva.
- MA or PhD students from Anglia Ruskin University and University of Greenwich, School of Design Architecture programme.

Gallery HLM, 20 rue Saint Antoine — 2nd floor
Exhibition open: 7th to 21st November 2019
Private view: November 7th at 18h / Closes: November 21st at 18h
Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 14h to 19h

Phase III — Le Modulor

L'exposition Modulor est la troisième exposition d'une série de quatre (Cambridge, Toulouse, Marseille, Londres) organisée par Benet Spencer et David Ryan de la Cambridge School of Art, en collaboration avec Les Beaux-Arts de Marseille (ARC Modulor) et le Réseau Peinture aux écoles d'art.

Ces différentes présentations cherchent à explorer la relation entre dessin, peinture et architecture.

Dans cette partition de l'espace cohérente avec leur travail:
- David Ryan, Benet Spencer et leurs invités
- Berenice Donzéliermann, Jaime Gill, Oliver Gourvil,
- Tim Renshaw, Anna Salamone, April Vergoe.

Des étudiants et enseignants de l'Université de Greenwich, Faculté d'Architecture.

Vernissage
Jeudi 07 nov. à 18h

Finissage
Jeudi 21 nov. à 18h

Galerie HLM/Hors-les-Murs
26 rue Saint Antoine Marseille 2e
Du mardi au samedi de 14h à 19h

Les Beaux-Arts de Marseille
Phase IV: Intersections - Art / Architecture

15th January - 21st February 2020

Stephen Lawrence Gallery
and Project Space
University of Greenwich
11 Stockwell Street, London  SE10 9BD
Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 5pm
Saturday, 11am - 4pm

Opening Event
Wed, 15th January  18.00

Catalogue Launch and Symposium
Friday, 14th and Saturday, 15th February

Phase IV: Intersections - Art / Architecture is an exhibition and accompanying symposium that brings together projects stemming from higher education institutions in England and France, that are exploring interfaces between art and architecture. Phase IV is the fourth and last of a series of exhibitions led by Benet Spencer and Dr David Ryan from Cambridge Schools of Art, Anglia Ruskin University. The earlier phases saw collaborations, in February 2016, with Institut Supérieur des Arts Toulousains (Phase II - Imagining Architecture); and, in November 2016, with Ecole Supérieure d'Art de l'École des Beaux-Arts de Marseille (Phase III - le Modulor). Phase I in February 2016 at the Ruskin Gallery, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge was the first exhibition, in a series developed in conjunction with Réseau Peinture, a project that fosters collaboration between European schools of art and design, initiated by the artist, Olivier Gouvi, from Ecole Supérieure d'Art et Design Grenoble - Valence.

Throughout these four phases the project has grown, in the spirit of Réseau Peinture, to include parallel areas of research activity; part of the development of the Phase III exhibition included ARC Modulor, a research project between staff and students which ran at the École Supérieure d'Art in Marseille from November 2016. The Phase IV exhibition contains a wide range of projects that have been involved in different stages of the project, with architects and artists from the Stephen Lawrence Gallery of Art-Architecture exhibitions held at University of Greenwich School of Design between 2014-19. Also featured will be contributions to Outside Architecture, an artist-led collaborative group founded in 2009 by Tim Rieschaw, Berenice Domszelmann and Mary Macleod. Phase IV: Intersections - Art / Architecture marks an opportunity to gather these strands of activity, to take stock and evaluate what has become a growing discourse.