

Craig Wood

Senior Lecturer
University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Research Group: Fine Art

Evidence Portfolio: *Blank Cheque*

Output Number: 2 of 2

Output Code: WIRAD-UWTSD-CW02

Output Type Code: L

Output Description: Artefact

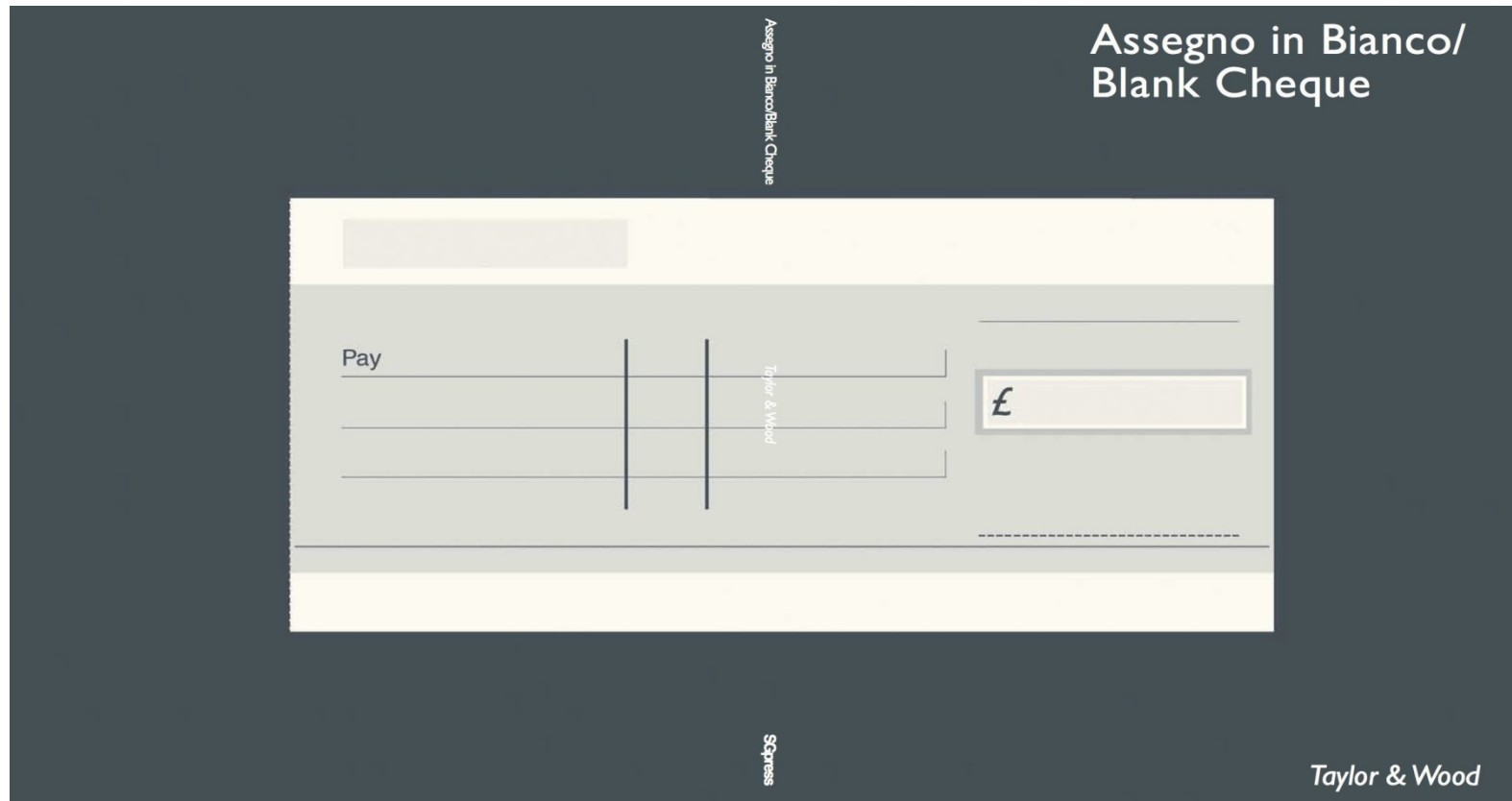
Author(s): Wood, Craig; Taylor, Chris

Year of Publication / Production: 2010

Location / Venue(s): SG Gallery, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy and others

Media: Wallpaper design printed as 1005 cm x 52 cm rolls

Number of Works: 1 Wallpaper design produced as exhibition artefact



Blank Cheque, 2010. Layout for catalogue cover

Research Context

Assegno in Bianco/Blank Cheque was a retrospective exhibition at Galleria il Sotoportego at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy with an accompanying catalogue, presented the collaborative practice, aims and objectives of Craig Wood and Chris Taylor (Taylor & Wood). The exhibition, which included the new paper *Blank Cheque*, brought their six printed artists' wallpapers together for the first time alongside their original book project *Down on Paper* (2000). Created as part of their ongoing collaborative research, and produced in response to a variety of independent gallery invitations, projects and commissions (Ikon, Birmingham; V&A, London; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester) their designs address issues such as authorship, creativity, interactivity and dissemination through the medium of repeat pattern wallpaper. The *Blank Cheque* project combined the interactive element of their earlier design *Frames*, where viewers could draw in their own artworks, with concerns of social and political responsibility developed in *Witness*.

Research Imperatives

With the recent decision by the UK Payments Council to phase out the bank cheque, a form of payment transfer originating in the pre-Christian era, the project *Blank Cheque* was developed to explore particular consequences recent fiscal policy failures and banking crises the world over. The specific focus is the late stage of an era where personal finance was conducted on a person-to-person basis requiring one-to-one material interaction.

With the hand-written signature which identified each cheque as unique and belonging to a named individual now increasingly replaced by a PIN which can be changed electronically and indefinitely, the signature as an exclusive and consistent personal identifier is potentially diminished. *Blank Cheque* was produced to address the concern that future generations will pay for the short sightedness and irresponsibility of the present electronic economic culture. The blank cheque of the wallpaper invites or solicits signatures to stimulate engagement, and prompts an awareness that the cheque as a bill of exchange involves time, materiality and the embodied mark-making of an individual, as well as money.

Project Methods

Blank Cheque, as socially engaged innovative practice within the context of domestic wall coverings, was part of a Whitworth Art Gallery commission (along with *Witness*) for its collaborative exhibition with the Victoria and Albert Museum *Walls Are Talking: Wallpaper, Art and Culture* (2010). As with previous collaborative wallpapers, Wood and Taylor worked closely with wallpaper printers, Graham & Brown Ltd of Blackburn, developing their ideas from the concept stage to final product in close association with the company's technical personnel. The work harnesses the decorative tradition of repeat pattern wallpaper to depict the economic strategy of repeatedly printing money within a 'no consequences' culture. *Blank Cheque* and the other commissioned wallpaper *Witness* with were the only artefacts from the exhibition available to the public through the gallery's commercial outlet.



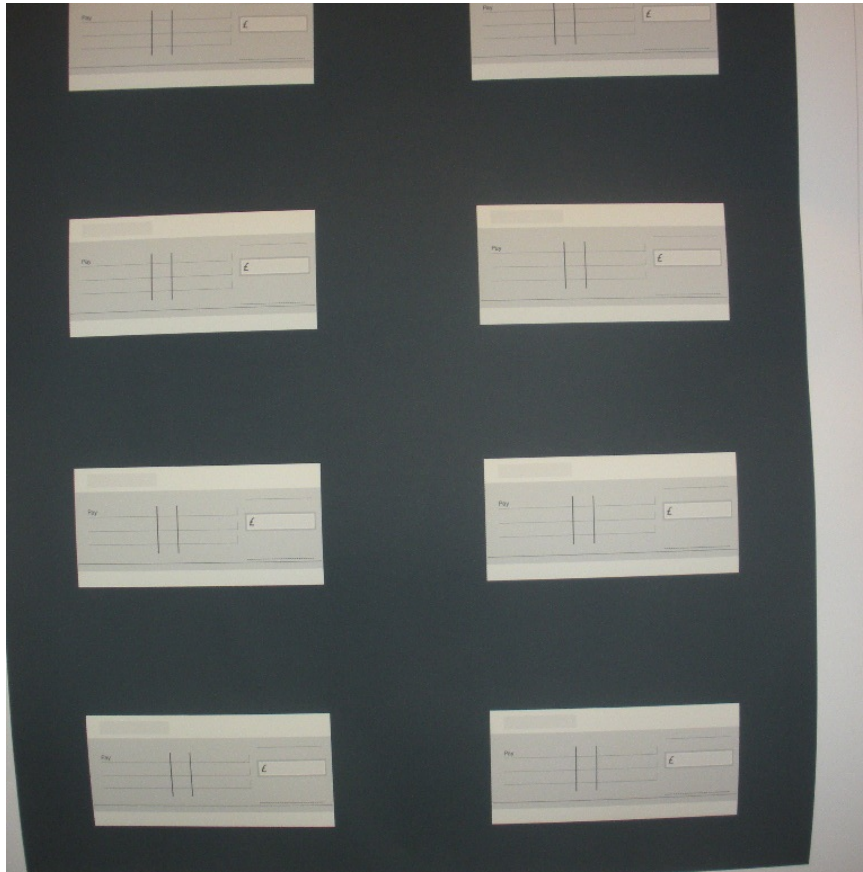
Assegno in Bianco/Blank Cheque exhibition
SG Gallery, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, 2011

Outcomes and Dissemination

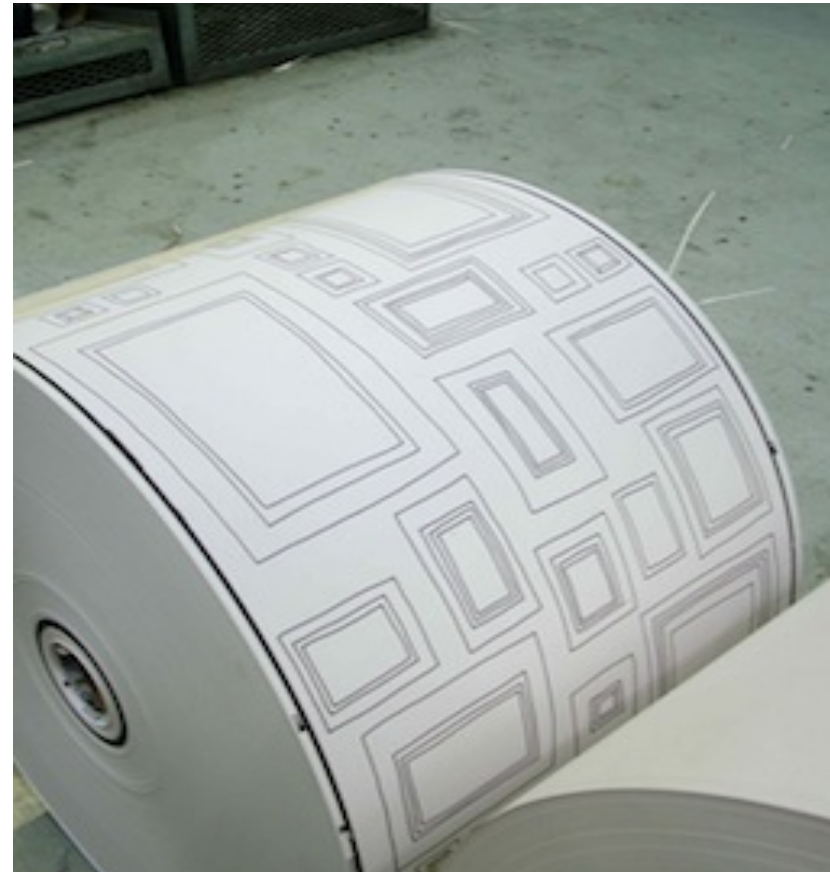
Exhibitions and Publications

Blank Cheque wallpaper was exhibited at the following:

- *Assegno in Bianco/Blank Cheque*, SG-Gallery, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica Venice, Italy, 7th – 31st July 2010
Exhibition catalogue Kelly, D. and Taylor, C.A. (2010) *Assegno in Bianco/Blank Cheque: Taylor & Wood* Venice, Italy: SG press. ISBN 978-88-906253-0-5
- *Walls are Talking: Wallpaper, Art and Culture*, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, 6th February – 10th August 2010, a major survey exhibition of artists' wallpapers
Exhibition publication: Saunders, G., Heyse-Moore, D., Keeble, T., Woods, C. (2010) *The Walls Are Talking: Wallpaper, Art and Culture* London: KWS Publishers



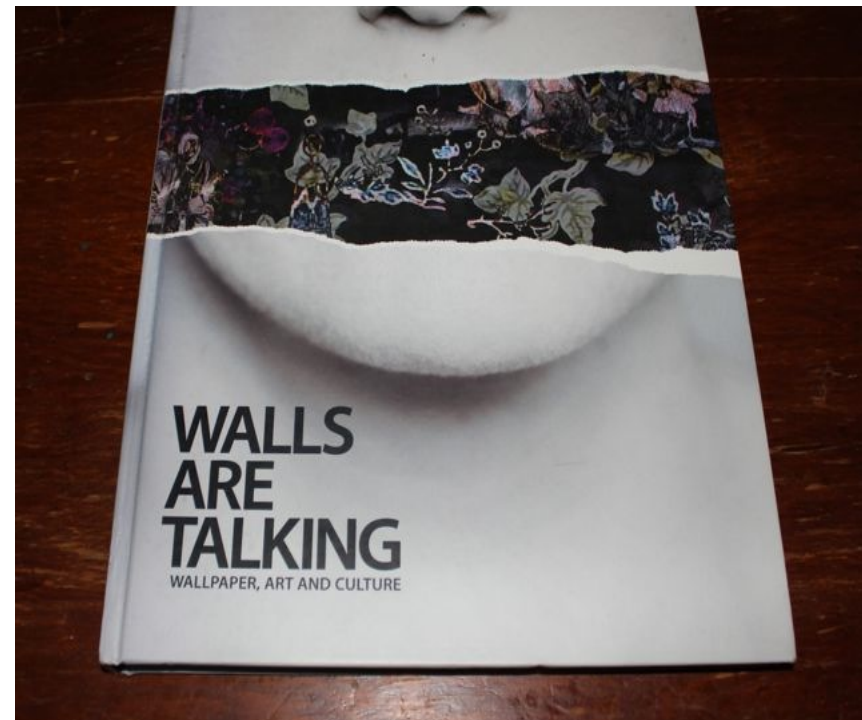
Blank Cheque at proofing stage, Graham & Brown, 2010



A roll of *Frames* (2000) wallpaper at Graham & Brown



Assegno in Bianco/Blank Cheque (2010) catalogue



Walls are Talking: Wallpaper, Art and Culture, (2010)
Whitworth Gallery publication