

# I spy

originality in a visual world  
leigh garrett, john colomasse, amy robinson

what do you think?

visual work

project overview

origins

- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...

pillars

- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...

how?

- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...

grey area

defining plagiarism

- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...

session outline:

- spot the difference project overview
- introduction to visual plagiarism
- trace camo art (y.g. yourself)

agencing with SPAM

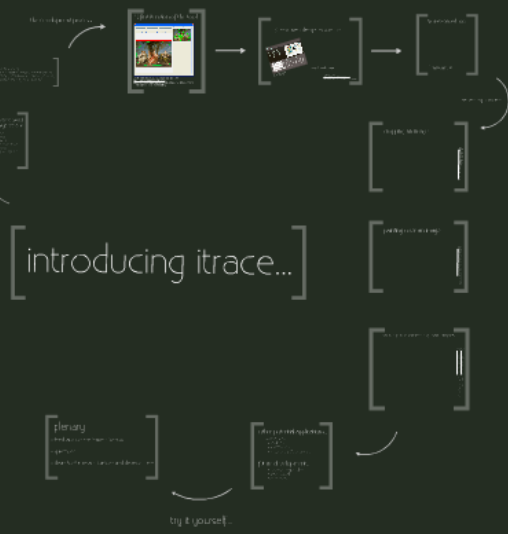
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...
- work done in context of a collaborative...

supposed copy + paste boom



who are we?

work done in context of a collaborative...



try it yourself



# I SPY

originality in a visual world

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who are we?



vads

the online resource for visual arts

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Image search    
[more search options](#) [lightbox](#)



VADS provides over 120,000 digital images free for use in education

[about](#) [contact](#) [terms of use](#) [image credits](#) © 2008

vads at university for the creative arts  
www.vads.ac.uk



rhoda bag by sarah bayley, 2009  
museum of design in plastics  
arts university college at bournemouth



lots road power station by john minton, 1953  
royal college of art collection



evening gown by david styne, 1967  
london college of fashion



tuart forest II by tom cross, 1999  
university college falmouth

# session outline:

- spot the difference project overview
- introduction to visual plagiarism
- itrace demo and try it yourself!

## learning outcomes...

- context and rationale for project
- understand methods used
- recognise complex nature of visual plagiarism
- upload image to itrace & explore its potential & limitations

## for the project team...

- understand how users engage
- identify issues/bugs
- identify opportunities for future development



the background to the project...

the internet is often reported to have led to a.....

# supposed 'copy + paste boom'

photo by ze clou,  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/leclou/4196036644>  
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BBC news (2011). 'plagiarism: the ctrl+c, ctrl+v boom'  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12613617>

research on plagiarism in universities has tended to focus mainly on text-based work and not...

visual work



# project overview

## objectives

- investigate the concept of 'visual plagiarism'
- consider the potential applicability that visual search technology may have in this area
- investigate the sustainability of any future service

## partners

- vads at university for the creative arts
- cvssp at university of surrey
- funded by jisc

how?

# how?



elicit staff views and experiences on 'visual plagiarism'

*through literature review, sector-wide survey, and int*

how!  
elicit staff views and experiences on 'visual plagiarism'

through literature review, sector-wide survey, and interviews

development of visual search pilot tool by cvssp

through literature review, sector-wide survey, and inter

development of visual search pilot tool by cvssp

workshops at four specialist arts univers



Development of visual search pilot tool by CVSSP

workshops at four specialist arts universities in 2012

gather feedback and user requirements

workshops at four specialist art

to gather feedback and user requirements



# defining plagiarism

"the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own"

oxford english dictionary

grey area

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/oxfordshire\\_church\\_photos/4131668838](http://www.flickr.com/photos/oxfordshire_church_photos/4131668838)  
licensed under creative commons cc by-nc-sa 2.0

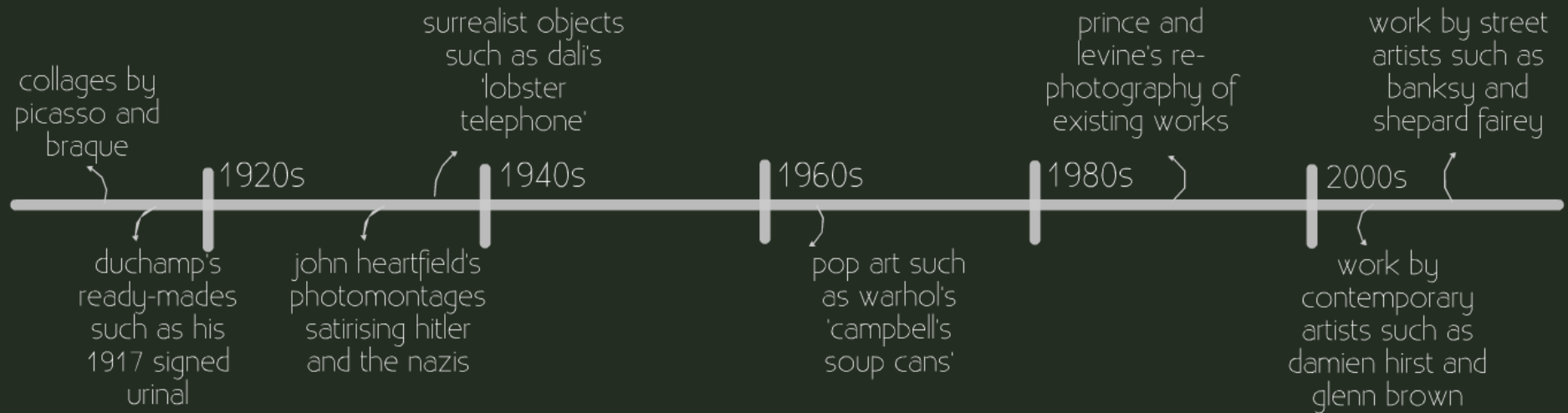


# learning through copying

student sketching in the ashmolean  
museum in oxford, photo by martin beek

# appropriation, homage, pastiche

widely accepted artistic practices  
with a long history



surrealist objects  
such as dali's  
'lobster  
telephone'

collages by  
picasso and  
braque

1920s

1940s

duchamp's  
ready-mades  
such as his  
1917 signed  
urinal

john heartfield's  
photomontages  
satirising hitler  
and the nazis

ts

prince and  
levine's re-  
photography of  
existing works

1960s

pop art such  
as warhol's  
'campbell's  
soup cans'

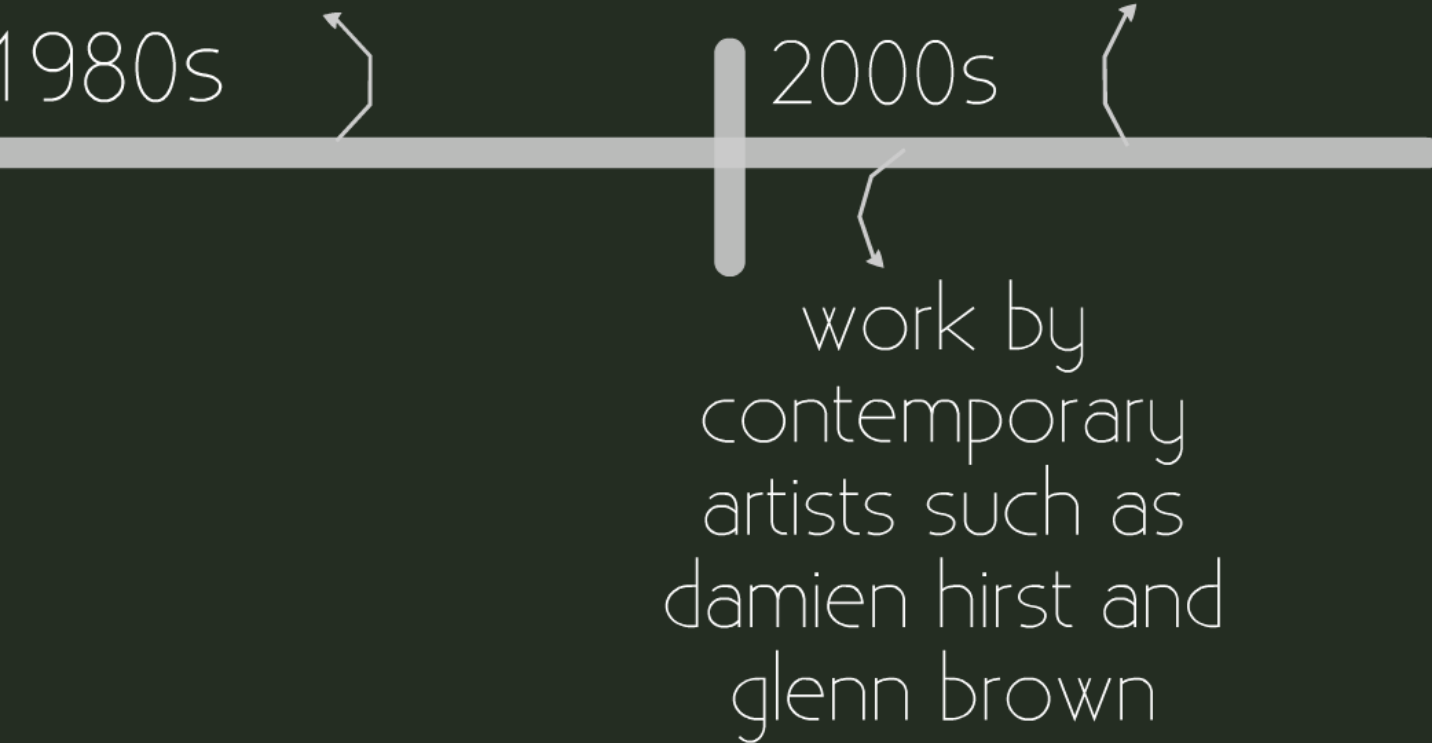
1980s

con  
arti  
dam  
gle

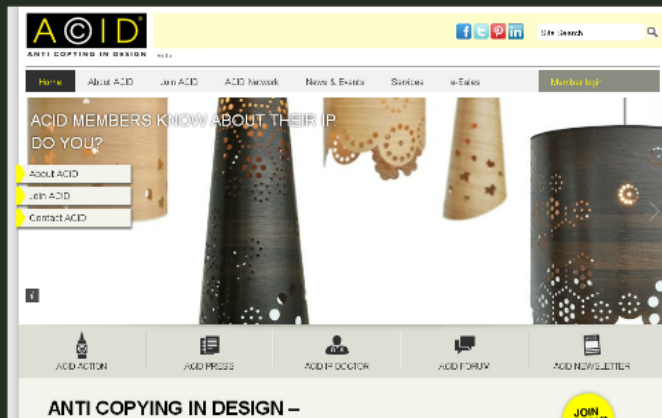


prince and  
levine's re-  
photography of  
existing works

work by street  
artists such as  
banksy and  
shepard fairey



# anti-copying organisations & websites



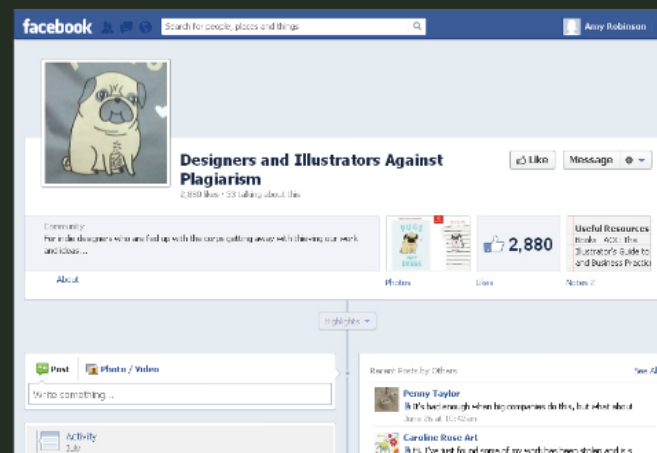
acid.uk.com



plagiarismus.com



youthoughtwewouldntnotice.com



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/designers-and-illustrators-against-plagiarism/190313407647321>



ANTI COPYING IN DESIGN

Beta



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ACID IP DOCTOR



ACID FORUM



ACID NEWSLETTER

ANTI COPYING IN DESIGN –



acid.uk.com

Action Plagiarius

Museum Plagiarius

Awards

Exhibitions

## Aktion Plagiarius



**"Innovation vs. Imitation - Plagiarius" accuses imitators for their unimaginative and shameless behaviour!**

Initiated already back in 1977 by Prof. Rido Busse, the negative award "Plagiarius" serves to inform the public about the problem of fakes and plagiarisms and the negative impacts they have on not only the economy as a whole, but also on small companies and designers. Action Plagiarius awards the negative award at the annual "Ambiente" trade fair during a press conference. The award is given to those companies that the jury has found guilty of making "the most flagrant" design imitations. As his key figure, Busse chose a gnome, which he painted black with a gold nose to signify the "illicit earnings from product imitation".

plagiarius.com

# YOU THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T NOTICE

BUT WE DID...

Subscribe via RSS



HOME



27

JUN/12

2

## Trelise Cooper kids rips off Emily Temple Cute Lulu

AttorneyScott Commentary:

In the United States, unlike most developed nations, the cut or silhouette of a piece of clothing is not subject to copyright protection because the powers that be feel that clothing is 'utilitarian' and thus cannot be art. Many would disagree, I imagine.

The design printed on the fabric of a garment is, however, subject to protection as a two-dimensional work of art. If someone copies the fabric design of another without permission, that someone will be liable for copyright infringement. Is that the case below?

\*\*\*

Dear YTWWN:

You'd think after [Grey-Bow-Sweater-Gate](#) Trelise Cooper would be done with plagiarism. Especially of Japanese brands, as [Alannah Hill got picked up for ripping off Emily Temple Cute](#) around the same time. Yes, ladies, other people who like fashion have heard of Japanese lolita brands as well.

But I saw this Trelise Cooper kids' dress on Ebay and thought it looked strangely familiar:



What is this place?

YTWWN is a blog where users have taken notice to a blatant rip off of a creative work, and shared it with us. Sharing and discussing the observations and casualties of improper use of creative property is what we're all about here.

This is an open blog, so please, add to and join the discussion, but keep in mind that there is a fine line between a rip-off and similarity of ideas. Please read the 'About' page before posting.

Please use some discretion before posting to help us keep this blog legitimate.

We look forward to seeing what you have to share.

Users

youthoughtwewouldntnotice.com



# Designers and Illustrators Against Plagiarism

2,880 likes · 33 talking about this

Like Message

Community

For indie designers who are fed up with the corps getting away with thieving our work and ideas...

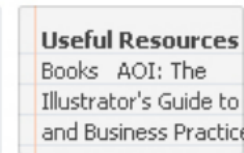
About



Photos



Likes



Notes 2

Highlights

Post Photo / Video

Write something...

Activity July

Recent Posts by Others

See All



**Penny Taylor**

It's bad enough when big companies do this, but what about  
June 26 at 10:42am



**Caroline Rose Art**

Hi, I've just found some of my work has been stolen and is s

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Designers-and-illustrators-Against-plagiarism/190313407647321>

some real life examples....



photograph by associated press



barack obama 'hope' poster by shepard fairey



sculpture by jeff koons, in venice

photo by devastar, licensed under creative commons cc by-nc 2.0  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/devastar/259864987/>



book end, park life store, san francisco

image used with permission from park life store  
<http://www.parklifestore.com/>



# sony world photography awards 2011



photo by nobuyuki taguchi, 2008



photo by marek troszczynski, 2010  
award nominee



photo by jamie gladden, 2007



tatty divine



claire's accessories





tatty divine



claire's accessories



"Teacher tutorials ensure that I can see students' work development"

"It is a topic of great interest amongst students - they are also concerned that their own work is not plagiarized (images/film/photos etc)"

"Focus on teaching students what they need to know rather than poking"

"Phobias may be an over-reaction to data logs"

# what do you think?

158 survey responses from across UK and some international

"Don't suppose the students in their class would disagree with the position taken on this but I can't see any way of making it more 'user friendly'"

"I would like to see a more structured approach to the data logs and a more consistent approach to the data logs"

"I think it is a good idea to have a more structured approach to the data logs and a more consistent approach to the data logs"

100% of respondents agreed that the data logs are a useful tool for monitoring student progress

# mark?

158 survey responses  
from across uk  
and some international



"plagiarism may be an over-rated  
problem in a digital age" -

survey respondent

" it is a topic of great interest  
amongst students  
- they are also concerned that  
their own work is not plagiarised  
- images/film/photos etc" -  
survey respondent



" students show development of their ideas and technique in workbooks."-

survey respondent

"regular tutorials ensures that i can see students' work development."-

survey respondent

"focus on teaching students  
what they need to know  
rather than policing."-

survey respondent

"...often students cite 'google' as their source without understanding the distinction between where they found the idea and where the idea actually 'comes from'." -

survey respondent

"staff often don't reference their visual sources in their teaching presentations and therefore students don't see the importance of doing so."

survey respondent

plagiarism in visual work — 6% of staff say this happens frequently

lack of referencing for images in written work — 42% of staff say this happens frequently

lack of referencing for images in presentations — 46% of staff say that this happens frequently

from project survey results

" I run a brief that requires students to research and write about visual plagiarism...supported by a mock trial event - a role play event where students test and play out whether it is acceptable to copy in their specialism." -

survey respondent

introducing itrace...



no text is required!



gillette poster by tom eckersley,  
<http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=115925>



content-based  
image retrieval

- colour
- shape
- texture
- points of visual interest
- digital fingerprint

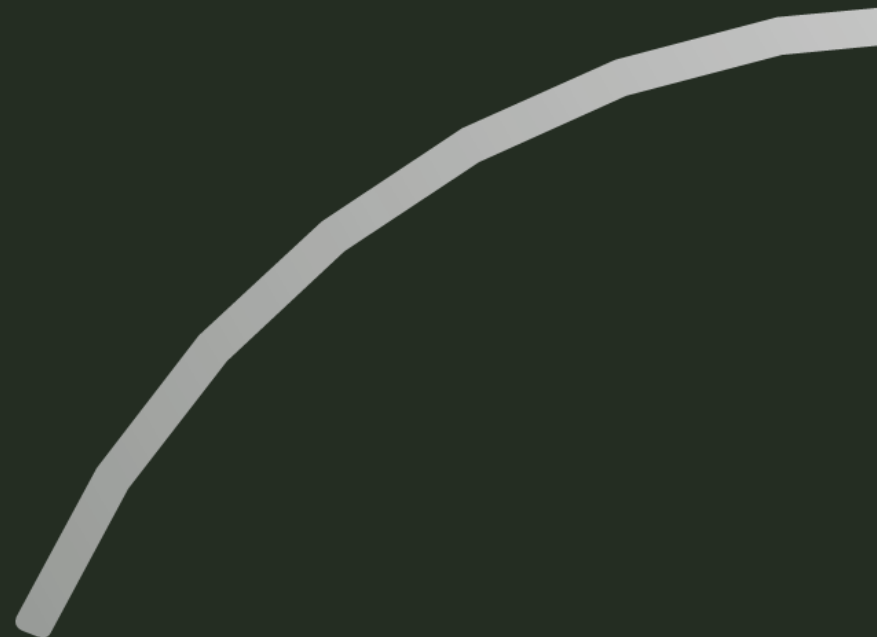




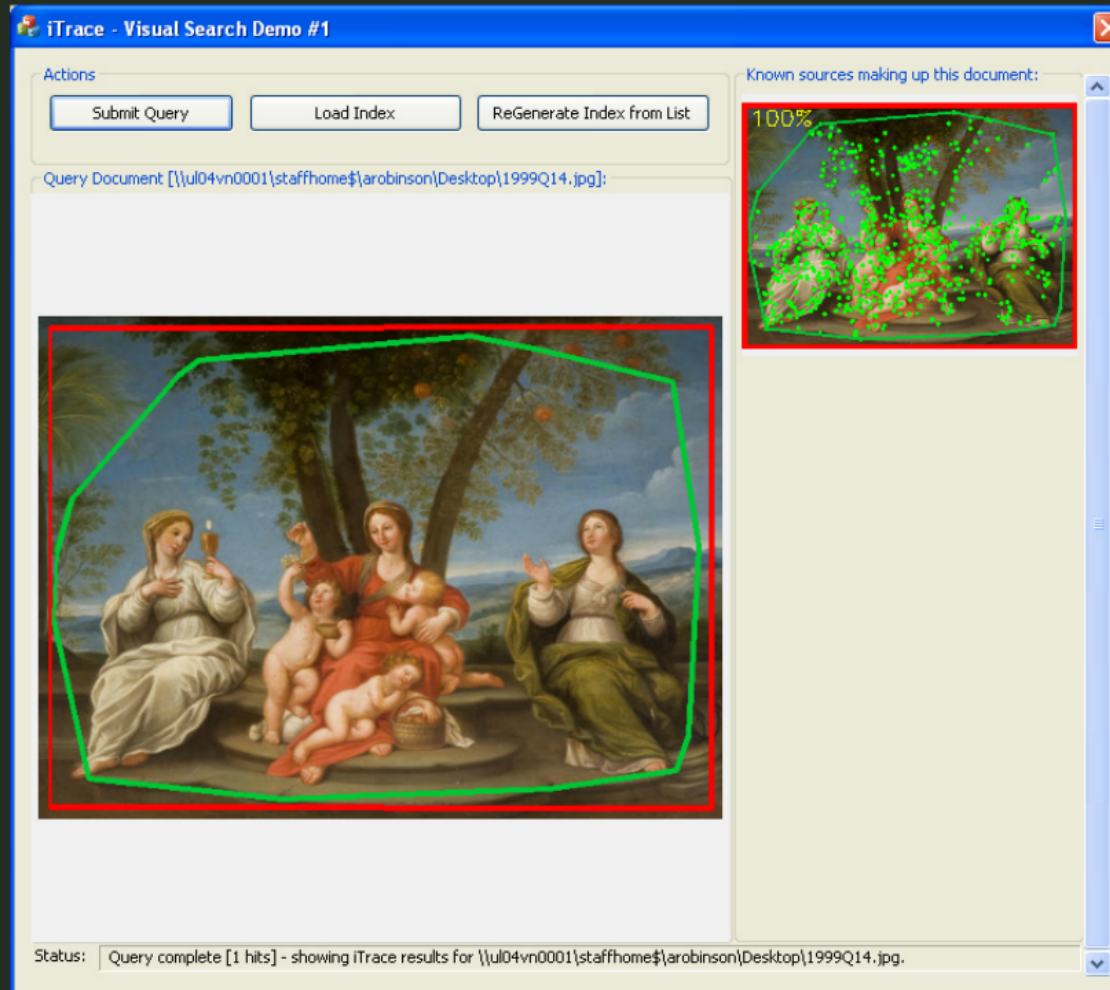
itrace...

- private beta testing
- based on index of images from vads.ac.uk
- technology from cvssp at university of surrey
- web development by bullet creative

# the development process



# 1) first iteration of the tool



visual search demo by cvssp, using images from vads:

<http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=91599>

faith, hope and charity, painting by studio of francesco albani, c.1650-60

© birmingham museum and art gallery

## 2) initial web design mock-ups

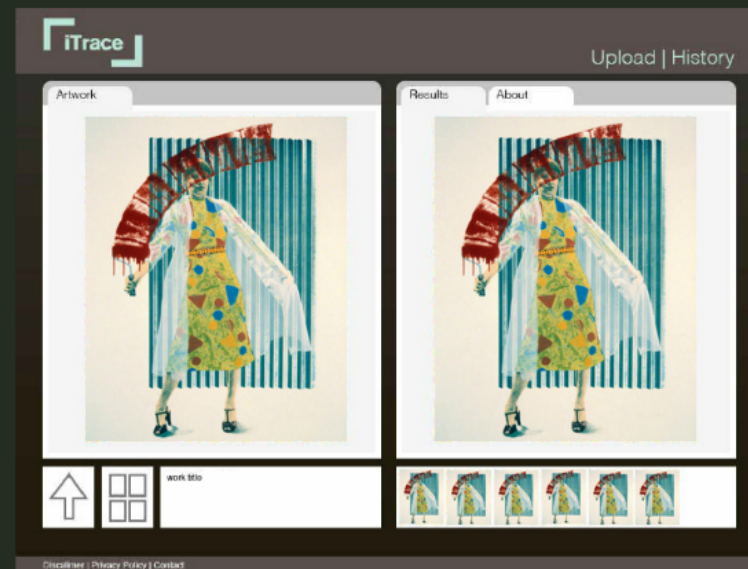
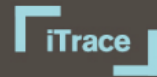


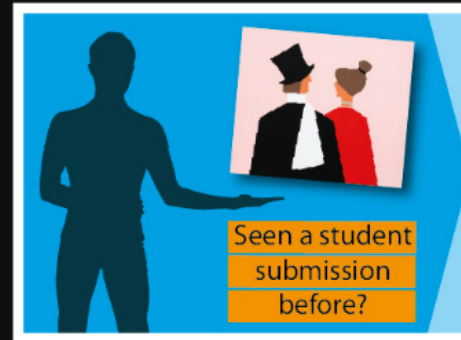
image from vads  
<http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=60448>  
the plastic mac by tim mara © tim mara estate

# 3) web-based tool



Help

iTrace gives you a unique tool to check your visual arts submissions against a database of existing visual works



Login Register >

Email

Password

Login

## About iTrace

iTrace is a unique tool that enables you to search by image rather than text, and to check visual arts submissions against a database of existing visual works. For this pilot project, the tool will be checking against the VADS database of 120,000 images. iTrace was developed through the JISC-funded Spot the Difference project, which is a collaborative venture between VADS and the Centre for Vision, Speech, and Signal Processing (CVSSP) at the University of Surrey, and it utilises technologies pioneered by the CVSSP. Follow the project on our blog at: [www.vads.ac.uk/spot](http://www.vads.ac.uk/spot)

## VADS

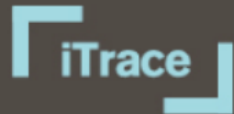
VADS is a research centre of the University for the Creative Arts. It also holds the national image repository on behalf of the arts sector, a growing collection of over 120,000 digitised images from universities, art colleges, libraries, museums, and archives across the UK. The images are free for use in learning, teaching, and research, and cover the full breadth of the visual arts including applied arts, architecture, design, fine art, and media. View all the VADS images at: [www.vads.ac.uk](http://www.vads.ac.uk)

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# itrace.ac.uk

# the testing process

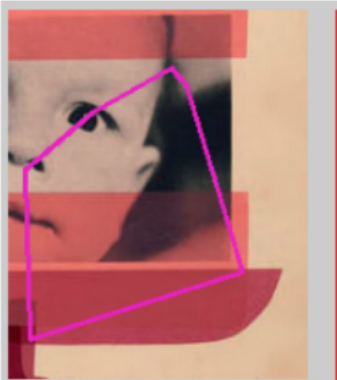
# cropping an image



Hello arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk

Upload | History | Logout | Help

Artwork to evaluate



Results



eckersley, tom. [poster]  
at: <http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=115917>

# painting over an image



Hello arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk

Upload | History | Logout | Help

Artwork to evaluate



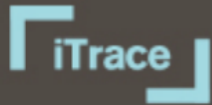
Results



eckersley, tom. (1986). worldwide wildlife fund poster at: <http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=92477>



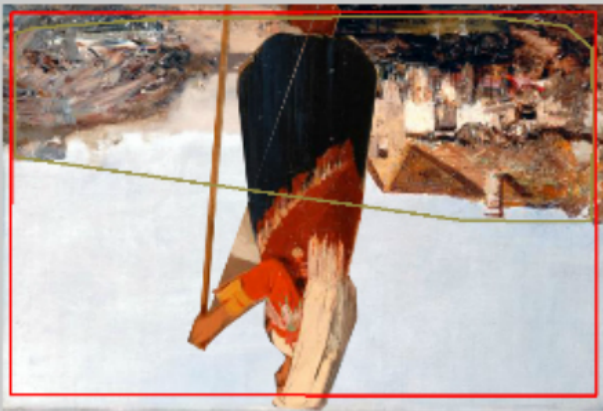
# rotating and combining two images



Hello arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk

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Artwork to evaluate



Results



Uploaded by:  
arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk

100%



french school (probably about 1840-1850), peasant woman  
at: <http://wads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=89337>  
sketch of cottages near boulogne-sur-mer by Josephine Bowes, about 1865-70  
at: <http://wads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=89450>

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# other potential applications...

protect ipr for:

- students
- practitioners
- museums/picture libraries

# future development...

- increase image index
- batch upload
- email alerts



try it yourself....

# plenary

- feedback on the itrace pilot tool
- questions
- ideas for future applications and development

contact

[lgarrett@ucreative.ac.uk](mailto:lgarrett@ucreative.ac.uk)

[arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk](mailto:arobinson@ucreative.ac.uk)

project blog and visual plagiarism  
bibliography at: [vads.ac.uk/spot](http://vads.ac.uk/spot)

# I spy

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what do you think?

introducing itrace...

visual work

grey area

agencies (aka: SPY) -  
 - what are they doing?  
 - how are they doing it?  
 - what are the implications of this?

by the agencies:  
 - what are they doing?  
 - how are they doing it?  
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 - how are they doing it?  
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how?

grey area

defining plagiarism



who are we?  
 web & university in the digital world

