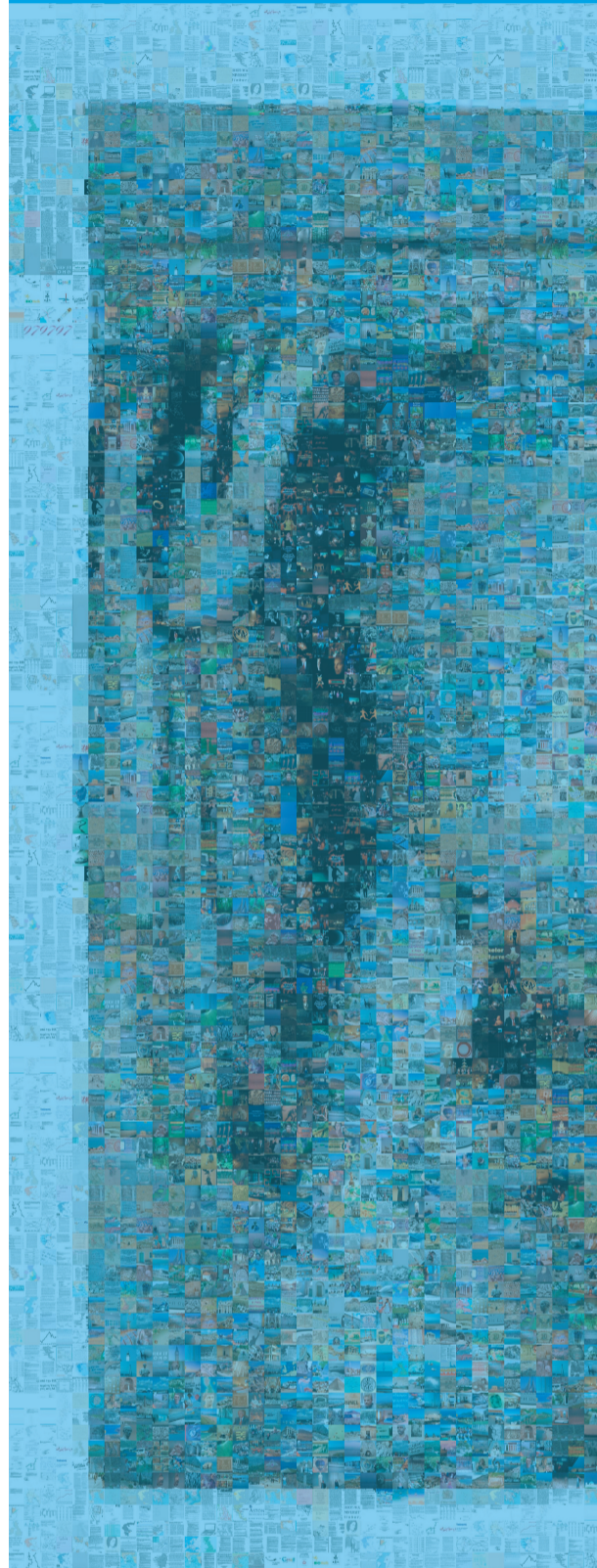# THE Long Room HUB

# Reflexive Representations

## The Partibility of Archaeology

**An artistic exploration of some archaeological theory**

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Andrew Cochrane (Cardiff University)



These exhibitions seek to contest traditional mechanisms for representation and spectatorship by questioning the status that the document and pictorial image play in archaeological discourse. Photomosaics of iconic archaeologists and archaeological monuments are constructed through the manufacture of archives of public images available over internet search engines. In these works, Google Image searches were utilised to amass libraries of images by employing generalised search terms. The first 10,000 images from the searches were used with no artistic intervention. These libraries are then fed through PhotoMosaic to produce a pixel system which manufactures the original images of archaeologists and monuments.

Inspired by Joan Foncuberta's series of Googlegrams (2005), we call into question the ways in which archaeologists position themselves and their work within broader society. By juxtaposing the figures of archaeologists or archaeological artefacts with a collage of public images, the pieces reveal the manufacture of representations of archaeological identities (of archaeologists) and that of the artefacts and monuments with which they work. In addition, through the use of the world wide web and freeware, they also challenge the role that digital media are playing in the fabrication of collective archaeological visual memory, interpretation, and mediated information. Rather than merely engaging in the pasts as archaeology has previously presented them to us, views are disrupted, interrupted and displaced by the (re)creation of depictions that are too mediated to be true, but that are still more illuminating.

We began by considering whether experience is ever truly documented or represented. Each (in)dividual piece subverts and parodies notions of 'truth' in archaeology and the veracity of dominant images in the construction of the past and present, memory, identity, gender, emotion and agency. Such a reflexive approach generates connections between unfamiliar essences, resulting in ruptured and fragmented yet dynamic archaeologies, histories and representations.

This exhibition will be composed of between three to five 1m x 1.5m mounted images with accompanying titles cards and a separate poster introducing the exhibition.

Confirmed exhibitions include:

* EAA 2006. 19th - 24th September. IAE, Cracow, Poland
* CHAT 2006. 10th - 12th November. Bristol University.
* TAG 2006. 15th - 17th December. University of Exeter.

## School of Histories and Humanities

# Exploring Reflexive Representations
# the Human Condition