

EXHIBITION GUIDE

RACHEL
MACLEAN

*THEY'VE GOT
YOUR EYES*

20 MAR - 16 AUG 2026



*"I had peered further
than ever mortal was
ordained to look. I had
laid my countenance
against the crystal pane
of this age, and glimpsed
an image of the next."*

RACHEL MACLEAN

They've Got Your Eyes

20 Mar - 16 Aug 2026

FACT

88 Wood Street

Liverpool

L1 4DQ

Wed - Sun, 11:00 - 18:00

Free entry



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EXPERIMENTAL
ART SPACE

RACHEL MACLEAN

They've Got Your Eyes



Drawing parallels between today's AI boom and Victorian invention, *They've Got Your Eyes* examines the motives driving advanced AI, and how fantasies of power shape its development.

Rachel Maclean's practice spans contemporary art, film, and emergent technologies, frequently starring her as the only actor in elaborate disguise. In this multi-channel exhibition, she swaps costumes for AI models trained on her image and archive, producing a new body of work that explores the tension between artistic authorship and machine agency. In this context, the phrase 'they've got your eyes' implies not just resemblance but theft – an AI running away with an artist's way of seeing.

In her new short film, we follow 'The Gentleman', a contemporary "tech-bro" turned Victorian inventor who has discovered how to generate fairies. His pursuit of 'progress' curdles into jealousy when he realises he's not alone; another Gentleman can summon fairies too, and with far greater aptitude. As the two men descend into rivalry, their shape-shifting creations flicker between flattery and mockery: at

times disarmingly clumsy, at others unnervingly perceptive. Beneath The Gentleman's mounting God-complex runs a quiet dread: that his fairies know more than he ever could.

Across fragmented screens, we see The Gentleman wrestle with his creations. He commands his fairy to build an aqueduct, but instead she vomits a towering "Aqua Duck." He calls for a parliament, and a lurid green ice-cream cone rises above a shop named "ParlourMint." AI-generated forms spill into the space as 3D-printed sculptures, dripping with slime and referencing the 'AI slop' saturating contemporary visual culture.

They've Got Your Eyes is a response to the ongoing AI arms race, connecting it to the Industrial Revolution and the havoc wrought in the blind pursuit of 'progress'. The work continues Rachel's recent exploration of power in the age of AI. As ego shapes technological development, how do we disentangle scientific achievement from the darker side of AI's relentless growth?



RELATED EVENTS

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Co-commissioned by FACT Liverpool and Sonica Glasgow with support from 1646, The Hague. Supported by the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund and Creative Scotland. Thanks to Braid UK and Newcastle University NUAcT for their support.

This artwork incorporates AI-generated video elements created using an AI model trained on Rachel Maclean's own image and artistic archive.



RACHEL MACLEAN BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Maclean (b. 1987, Edinburgh) has spent the last decade showcasing her ground-breaking work in galleries, museums, film festivals and on television. Working across a variety of media, including video, digital print, sculpture, and VR, she makes complex and layered works that reference politics, fairy tales, pop culture, contemporary media, and more.

She has shown her work widely, both in the UK and internationally, receiving critical acclaim in the spheres of film and visual art. Her major exhibitions include solo shows at Tate Britain and National Gallery, London; Arsenal Contemporary, New York; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Kunsthalle zu Kiel, and Kunstpalais Erlangen, Germany; KWM Art Center, Beijing; and HOME, Manchester.



