			V3	Video 3
			V2	Video 2
			V1	Video 1
			A1	Audio 1
			A2	Audio 2
			A3	Audio 3
			A4	Audio 4

0.0

Master

T J Watson 1.10.2019

The enclosed work adopts the form of ten non-sequential videos, isolated and afloat on YouTube.

Like previous broadcast platforms, YouTube accrues profit from advertising. Yet unlike previous broadcast platforms YouTube faces little imperative to privilege any particular image commodity, whether singular film or serial television show, video diary or instructional segment; rather, YouTube aspires merely to keep viewers watching, irrespective of video's form or content. Through their extended, undirected spectation, users apprehend lucrative advertisements and supply the data necessary to vend advertising space, neatly bestowing a commodifiable record of their viewerly activity.

The majority of YouTube's most watched items remain music-videos, each bearing durations of three minutes. When moving image and sound were first conjoined, the visual held primacy over the sonic: musical compositions were devised to accompany film. For the most watched YouTube videos today, however, the hierarchy is inverted: audio tracks are established first and moving image made secondarily. In the epoch of cheap and demanded video content, affirmative visuality profilerates.

The construction of this work began with its audible dimension: text, taken largely from a previous work, *Whether with Joy or in Fear*, was rendered into scripts (see Fig 2), then narrated to produce voiceover segments, each supplemented with opening – and punctuating – sound test files.

Subsequently, a library of moving image was compiled, comprising newly taken footage, digitally animated graphics and sequences purchased from existing stock catalogues (see Fig 1). The narrated scripts were assigned a host of library entries (see Fig 3) and uploaded to YouTube. Within the footage library, the bespoke shots of London register a number of imagistic contestations: a far-right political sticker adorns a civic statue, a waste disposal vehicle occults a law firm's doorway, and window cleaners labour to maintain a city sky scraper. Studio and stock shots, by contrast, appear self-consistent.

–

If the moving-image was once marshalled to critique the heteronomised static image, what might critique the heteronomised moving-image now?

Playlist

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfk2LIz6UD_OjYYHV3FzbHA/playlists

1.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy069rQukLU

2.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fnHd5Pfp98

3.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bE91qtF2K0

4.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcO6Lrq1XKU

5.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzVSpN2njNw

6.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZ_gNEh6gFk

7.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPUwtxrQ8VA

8.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4h5a6IjMsw

9.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRH-bue1R3E

10.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx6f8bI8kbE

Desert Islands

10 single channel videos
2019

FIG 1.

Footage

A   Kant (Green Screen)

Aa   Zoom in

Ab   Zoom out

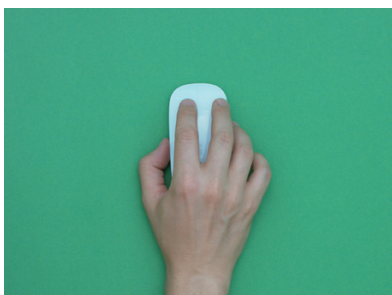**B**   Paperwork (Green Screen)

Ba   Zoom in

Bb   Zoom out

C   Coin and Hand (Green Screen)

Ca   Zoom in

Cb   Zoom out

D   Mouse and Hand (Green Screen)

Da   Zoom in

Db   Zoom out

E   City of London

Ea   Zoom in

Eb   Zoom out

F   Farrer and Co, Lincoln's Inn

Fa   Zoom in

Fb   Zoom out

G   De la Rue Printing, London

Ga   Zoom in

Gb   Zoom out

H   KFC Sign, London

Ha   Zoom in

Hb   Zoom out

I Dragon, City of London

Ia Zoom in

Ib Zoom out

J Apartment of Gilles Deleuze, Paris
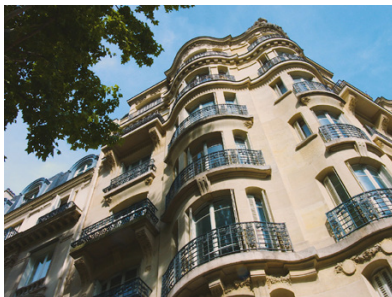
Ja Zoom in

Jb Zoom out

K Waves, Grand Cayman (Shutterstock ID 1028853938)

L Green Iguana (Shutterstock ID 1013777840)

La Zoom in

Lb Zoom out

M   Green Screen TV (Shutterstock ID 1009494500)

Ma   Zoom in

Mb   Zoom out

N   Robinson Crusoe Frontispiece

Na	Fence and sword		**Na1**	Zoom in
			Na2	Zoom out
Nb	Background ship		**Nb1**	Zoom in
			Nb2	Zoom out
Nc	Guns and face		**Nc1**	Zoom in
			Nc2	Zoom out
Nd	Summary text		**Nd1**	Zoom in
			Nd2	Zoom out

O   Cayman Bank Note

Oa	Queen and flag		**Oa1**	Zoom in
			Oa2	Zoom out
Ob	Cayman Map		**Ob1**	Zoom in
			Ob2	Zoom out
Oc	Turtle		**Oc1**	Zoom in
			Oc2	Zoom out
Od	De la Rue		**Od1**	Zoom in
			Od2	Zoom out

P   Rotating CGI Ugland House (Half-Constructed)

Q United Kingdom Map

Qa Enlargement

Qb Reduction

R Robin Hood Print

Ra Enlargement
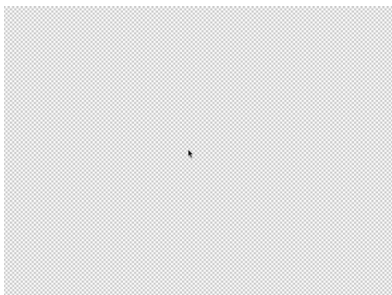
Rb Reduction

S City of London Logo

Sa Enlargement

Sb Reduction

T Cursor

Ta Spiral inwards

Tb Spiral outwards

FIG 2.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Rêver des îles, avec angoisse ou joie
peu importe, c'est rêver qu'on se
sépare, qu'on est déjà séparé, loin des
continents, qu'on est seul et perdu – ou
bien c'est rêver qu'on repart à zéro,
qu'on recrée, qu'on recommence.
          (pauses)
In the early 1950s, the Cayman Islands
did not have a bank; it remained a
provincial Caribbean economy, sustaining
fewer than ten thousand inhabitants.
From the 1960s onwards, however, Cayman
began to court the reserves of the
world's booming financial industries.
Gilles Deleuze ended his life in 1995.
Subsequently, banking assets held in
Cayman have tripled. Today, the islands
hold close to 1.5 trillion dollars.

A4 voice-over script (1)

NARRATOR (V.O)

The Cayman Islands grew affluent through
their role in offshore finance. Though
the islands' population is small, they
boast a GDP of roughly 2.5 billion
dollars. By most estimates, the Cayman
Islands have a higher GDP per capita
than the United Kingdom. The islands
parade expensive real estate, upmarket
restaurants and luxury boats.The Cayman
Islands have a negative trade balance of
more than 1.5 billion dollars: they
import far more goods than they export.
The Cayman Islands' currency notes are
printed by De La Rue printing, a firm
based largely in the UK; Cayman Islands
coins are minted by the Royal British
Mint. In the Cayman Islands, currency is
imported.
          (pauses)
On Thursday 23 June 2016, the United
Kingdom voted to leave the European
Union. Listed among those reasons for
exiting were concerns regarding the
global movement of persons and the
desire to reclaim national sovereignty.
"Take back control" was one of the leave
campaign's principal slogans. Some
argued that leaving the European Union
could encourage further deregulation of
British finance. It was suggested that,
subsequent to these changes, Britain's
economy might adopt an economic model
similar to that of Hong Kong, heavily
centred on financial institutions,
operating as a repository for global
capital. The United Kingdom was poised
to cement its status as centre of the
transnational offshore system.

A4 voice-over script (2)

NARRATOR (V.O)

British industrial capital rapidly
developed upon production's withdrawal
from global markets. With trade trailing
behind Holland's, Britain adopted high-
tariffs and protectionist policies.
Subsequently, markets in daily
necessities emerged, servicing a working
class and engendering urban development.
Since the decline of its empire, the
British economy has turned increasingly
to financial services. It is often
claimed that Britain could not
manufacture cheap commodities without
being undercut by the Global South. In
the Global South, many have voiced
complaints regarding the role British
finance plays in tax avoidance: unable
to tax local elites, it is argued, their
sovereignty is diminished.
        (pauses)
Tax havens, or "secrecy jurisdictions",
enable individuals and businesses to
evade domestic criminal laws, financial
regulations, transparency rulings and
more general social obligations. The
spectre of tax havens further affords
capital bargaining power: if taxes are
too high, supposedly, money will be
moved "offshore". The civil servant,
Vassel G. Johnson was instrumental in
the establishment of the Cayman Islands
as an offshore financial centre. Johnson
introduced much of the law that enabled
tax avoidance. He once stated, "the
Cayman Islands view confidentiality
differently: we treat it with kid
gloves, for it is the prime support of
the country, of promoting the tax haven
business." On 26 February 1994, Vassel
Johnson became the first Caymanian to be
knighted by Her Majesty the Queen.

A4 voice-over script (3)

NARRATOR (V.O)

Under English law, company directors are
required to maximise shareholder value.
For a publicly listed company, this
entails minimising the company's
outgoings. Given that a high tax bill is
seldom desirable for investors,
directors will often divert profits
offshore. It is unclear whether company
directors are legally bound to minimise
taxation or not. In 2013, Farrer & Co
produced a report claiming that it was
not illegal for directors to refrain
from minimising a company's tax bill.
The finding was reported in major
newspapers. Farrer and Co's legal
practice, however, largely involves
facilitating trusts established
offshore. This was not reported.
          (pauses)
On Thursday 23 June 2016, the United
Kingdom voted to leave the European
Union. Listed among those reasons for
exiting were concerns regarding the
global movement of persons and the
desire to reclaim national sovereignty.
"Take back control" was one of the leave
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economy might adopt an economic model
similar to that of Hong Kong, heavily
centred on financial institutions,
operating as a repository for global
capital. The United Kingdom was poised
to cement its status as centre of the
transnational offshore system.

A4 voice-over script (4)

NARRATOR (V.O)

Stranded on a seemingly deserted island,
Robinson Crusoe constitutes a privileged
image for philosophers. For Karl Marx,
Robinson offered a means to consider
differences in use and exchange value;
for Wittgenstein, a way to discuss a
private language. In most philosophical
invocations, what is notable about
Robinson is his isolation.In Defoe's
novel, Robinson Crusoe is not alone.
There are numerous other inhabitants of
his island: "savages" as the narrator
states. Robinson Crusoe was written at a
time of British imperial expansion.
Through the often-violent subjugation of
much of the world, Britain established a
vast territorial and trade empire.
        (pauses)
In 1719, John Clarke and John Pine
produced the earliest illustration of
Robinson Crusoe. In a scene absent from
the novel, Robinson appears forlorn
whilst a ship struggles in the
background. The engraving includes
various narrative and symbolic elements,
enabling the picture to summarise the
novel.It is often claimed that the
reception and development of photography
was structured by that of previous two-
dimensional arts, such as painting and
printmaking. In this regard, recent -
and developing - pictorial habits are
thought to be manifest within older
media. It is estimated that over 800
billion photographs will be taken this
year.The *Ken Burns Effect* constitutes a
popular technique in documentary
filmmaking whereby a camera pans across
and zooms upon a still image. It is
supposed that the Ken Burns Effect
enables filmmakers to retain an
audience's attention; implicitly,
viewers are thought to lack the
discipline or inclination to parse a
static image.

Setzen wir nun an die Stelle Robinson's
einen Verein freier Menschen, die mit
gemeinschaftlichen Produktionsmitteln
arbeiten und ihre vielen individuellen
Arbeitskräfte selbstbewusst als eine
gesellschaftliche Arbeitskraft
verausgaben. Alle Bestimmungen von
Robinson's Arbeit wiederholen sich, nur
gesellschaftlich, statt individuell. Ein
wesentlicher Unterschied tritt jedoch
ein. Alle Produkte Robinson's waren sein
ausschliesslich persönliches Produkt und
daher unmittelbar Gebrauchsgegenstände
für ihn. Das Gesammtprodukt des Vereins
ist ein gesellschaftliches Produkt. Ein
Theil dieses Produkts dient wieder als
Produktionsmittel. Er bleibt
gesellschaftlich. Aber ein anderer Theil
wird als Lebensmittel von den
Vereinsgliedern verzehrt. Er muss daher
unter sie vertheilt werden. Die Art
dieser Vertheilung wird wechseln mit der
besondern Art des gesellschaftlichen
Produktionsorganismus selbst und der
entsprechenden geschichtlichen
Entwicklungshöhe der Produzenten. Nur
zur Parallele mit der Waarenproduktion
setzen wir voraus, der Antheil jedes
Produzenten an den Lebensmitteln sei
bestimmt durch seine Arbeitszeit. Die
Arbeitszeit würde also eine doppelte
Rolle spielen. Ihre gesellschaftlich
planmässige Vertheilung regelt die
richtige Proportion der verschiednen
Arbeitsfunktionen zu den verschiednen
Bedürfnissen. Andrerseits dient die
Arbeitszeit zugleich als Mass des
individuellen Antheils des Produzenten
an der Gemeinarbeit und daher auch an
dem individuell verzehrbaren Theil des
Gemeinprodukts. Die gesellschaftlichen
Beziehungen der Menschen zu ihren
Arbeiten und ihren Arbeitsprodukten
blieben hier durchsichtig einfach, in
der Produktion sowohl als in der
Distribution. Woher also der
räthselhafte Charakter des
Arbeitsprodukts, sobald es die Form der
Waare annimmt?

NARRATOR (V.O)

Green iguanas were first brought to the
Cayman Islands as pets. Within a decade
of arrival, however, their number had
increased exponentially. Today, the wild
population is considered almost
unmanageable.In 2019, nearly one million
iguanas were culled. Cullers were
remunerated for every iguana body
collected, costing the government
millions of dollars. Wealthier residents
bemoaned the scheme as a welfare system
for the island's unemployable surplus
population. Alert to the conditions of
their income, the wealthy claimed,
cullers would only kill lizards too old
or too young to reproduce.
          (pauses)
In recent decades, the Cayman Islands
have courted tourism to augment profits
derived from offshore finance. The
Cayman Islands offer a combination of
luxury services and unspoilt marine
life. Though the Cayman Islands use few
resources, they benefit from global
manufacturing: capital accumulated in
industry is funnelled into Cayman-based
financial vehicles. Should global
industry continue to operate as it does,
climate change will inflict irreparable
damage on Cayman's coral reefs. Many
have complained that such destruction
would leave tourists without reason to
visit.

A4 voice-over script (7)

NARRATOR (V.O)

Design software often uses a grey and
white chequered image to signify
transparency. Paradoxically, the
visible, gridded pattern represents
absence. Through the design's formal
regularity, the appearance of non-
transparent objects, opaque and
alienable, is supposedly rendered
obvious: image-makers register
interruptions in tessellated squares. As
computerized shorthand for non-
appearance, the "checkerboard"
background is relatively recent.
Historically, it emerged as European
socialisms disintegrated, gaining
international popularity while the twin
processes of financialisation and
digitisation underwent acceleration.
Financialisation and digitisation are
best understood at transnational levels.
Without fixed geographical centres, the
two produce seemingly discrete objects,
expanding through abstraction.
      (pauses)
Significant collectors of contemporary
art often purchase works through
vehicles based in tax havens. In doing
so, they avoid inheritance tax, capital
gains tax and a host of other duties.
Today, the sale of major artworks often
involves offshore companies, freeports
and other constructions that enable tax
avoidance. Over the last fifty years,
the art world has grown significantly.
Presently, there are more people who
identify as an "artist" than at any
other point in history. The majority of
these people, however, will not earn an
income sufficient to survive on from art
alone. Unable to subsist on state
benefits, most will undertake precarious
employment within the service sector.

A4 voice-over script (8)

NARRATOR (V.O)

Designed logos are ordinarily saved and
downloaded as vector files with
transparent backgrounds. Such images can
be rescaled without pixelation.
Transparent backgrounds permit logos to
be superimposed onto various backdrops;
the designs appear free floating,
isolated. Though a vector logo without
background will appear devoid of
context, the file contains a bounding
box: a rectangle situating the design
within. Hence, while designs might
appear discrete, there is an invisible
structure that registers where images
begin and end.
        (pauses)
The term "society" is commonly used in
two ways: to refer to the general
condition of living with others and to
refer to groups of people. In this
regard, "society" has been opposed to
both the idea of the lone individual and
the idea of other distant, different
societies. The latter meaning has often
led people to speak of independent
national societies. "Society" is
frequently interpreted as a formation
distinct from the state. The British
Conservative prime ministers, Margaret
Thatcher and David Cameron were noted
for their use of "society". Both
politicians advocated reduced state
intervention and the rule of the market.
In 1987, Margaret Thatcher famously
declared that there was "no such thing
as society". In the aftermath of the
financial crisis of 2008, David Cameron
spoke of the idea of a "big society".
This became a flagship policy.

A4 voice-over script (9)

18

NARRATOR (V.O)

Wir haben jetzt das Land des reinen
Verstandes nicht allein durchreist, und
jeden Teil davon sorgfältig in
Augenschein genommen, sondern es auch
durchmessen, und jedem Dinge auf
demselben seine Stelle bestimmt. Dieses
Land aber ist eine Insel, und durch die
Natur selbst in unveränderliche Grenzen
eingeschlossen. Es ist das Land der
Wahrheit (ein reizender Name), umgeben
von einem weiten und stürmischen Ozeane,
dem eigentlichen Sitze des Scheins, wo
manche Nebelbank, und manches bald
wegschmelzende Eis neue Länder lügt, und
indem es den auf Entdeckungen
herumschwärmenden Seefahrer unaufhörlich
mit leeren Hoffnungen täuscht, ihn in
Abenteuer verflechtet, von denen er
niemals ablassen und sie doch auch
niemals zu Ende bringen kann. Ehe wir
uns aber auf dieses Meer wagen, um es
nach allen Breiten zu durchsuchen, und
gewiß zu werden, ob etwas in ihnen zu
hoffen sei, so wird es nützlich sein,
zuvor noch einen Blick auf die Karte des
Landes zu werfen, das wir eben verlassen
wollen, und erstlich zu fragen, ob wir
mit dem, was es in sich enthält, nicht
allenfalls zufrieden sein könnten, oder
auch aus Not zufrieden sein müssen, wenn
es sonst überall keinen Boden gibt, auf
dem wir uns anbauen könnten; zweitens,
unter welchem Titel wir denn selbst
dieses Land besitzen, und uns wider alle
feindseligen Ansprüche gesichert halten
können.

FIG 3.

Script	Footage Sequence
1	Ja-Qb-Ob2-Ab-Ea-K-P-Jb
2	Ga-K-Oa1-P-Nb1-Od2-Ob2 Ia-K-C-Sa-Bb-Ea-Oa2
3	Qa-Na1-Hb-Da-Sb-Eb-Nb1-C-Oa2 Oa2-Sb-C-Ra-K-Fa-Bb-Pa
4	Fa-Ba-C-C(Ob1)-Ra-Ma(Fa)-Ma-B(Ob1)-Mb P-Ob1-D-Bb-K-Hb
5	Qa-Aa-Na1-Nc1-Nb1-Nd1-Lb-F-I-E-G N-Nc-Na-Nb-Nd-Ra-P-J-C-F-E-D-G-H-I-B-A-Oc1-M-M(N)
6	Na1-C-G-Od1-N-Nc1-Nb1-P-Ma(K)-D-Ta-Ba-Hb
7	Lb-I-Sa-Na1-Cb-Oa2-Ba Oc2-K-P-Ga
8	Da-Sa-Bb-B(F)-B(Ob1)-B(I)-B(K)-Hb-Ma(Ta-D) Ea-Aa-Qa-A(K-Ob1-I-E)-Ra-Ob1-Cb-Qa
9	Ta-Qa-Ra-Sa-P-Cb-Ea-D-Tb K-P-C-Fa-Ra-D-Ha
10	Aa-Na1-Qa-Ca-Ma(K)-Tb-Jb-Ob2-Nc1-Fa