

# Are You Living Comfortably?

By McCoy Wynne

10 October - 23 December

*Are You Living Comfortably?* is the result of a collaboration between University of Salford Art Collection and Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool with the University's ground-breaking Energy House research facility and the artists McCoy Wynne. It is presented as part of the LOOK Photo Biennial 2022.

McCoy Wynne were selected as Artist in Residence at Energy House from an open call in late 2020. During 2021 they regularly visited Energy House, observing and recording a research project into the efficiencies of retrofitting a Victorian built terraced house. They subsequently created a body of work that shows both the unique facilities at Energy House, alongside the scientific experiments for a specific research project.

For many years McCoy Wynne have photographed property awaiting re-development or for sale. In this context, Energy House felt familiar, like another empty property awaiting refurbishment and new residents. As Stephanie Wynne explains:

'Energy House was created in a laboratory chamber. The house is tested and measured, and its changes are analysed. The rooms are filled with wires, sensors and equipment to detect every temperature and atmospheric change. Anyone working in the house, including us, also became part of the monitoring - recorded by the heat we radiated and the carbon dioxide we exhaled. We visualised heat using a thermal imaging camera and incorporated these images, their temperature scales and referenced the thermal colours, within the layers of the final pictures'.

In the final artwork, they have recreated the house, giving it a new imagined life, dressed as if ready for sale or rent with views from its windows and set within its own gardens. The details of this imagined world are semi-opaque to give a new sense of reverie to scientific study. McCoy Wynne have created every detail of this final set of pictures - using their original photographs and adding layers such as furniture, plants, interior decoration, personal items and household products - making the laboratory house recognisable as a home. Alongside the images, they also created an 'advertising brochure,' similar to those produced by high-end estate agents, but here sharing an insight into their process alongside related facts and figures from Professor Richard Fitton.

McCoy Wynne used a methodical approach to their research (familiar to both scientific and artistic practices), including exploring beyond Energy House. Believing that conversation and curiosity are two important features connecting both art and science, McCoy Wynne expanded their practice to include: measuring their carbon footprint whilst working as photographers; planting their own vegetables from seed; and further researching sustainability, ecology, and local urban environments.

*Are You Living Comfortably?* is an example of 'how the imagination of art can interpret the discovery of science'.

You can discover more details about the artworks and the advice from Professor Fitton in one of the gallery copies of the brochure.

#AreYouLivingComfortably

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# LOOK Photo Biennial 2022: Climate x University of Salford

## About University of Salford Art Collection:

The University of Salford Art Collection is an ambitious and growing collection of over 800 works of modern and contemporary art. Founded c.1968 the collection exists for the benefit of students, staff and the public. The team commission new work for the collection from artists of local, national and international significance, support artist development, and host exhibitions and events with a wide range of internal and external partners. *Are You Living Comfortably?* will enter the permanent collection.

For **LOOK Photo Biennial 2022: Climate x University of Salford** we present three new photography based projects which respond to the climate crisis, environmental issues, and sustainable living: McCoy Wynne, and Megan Powell and Gwen Riley-Jones (from 19 Oct - 16 Nov).

<https://artcollection.salford.ac.uk/>

## About McCoy Wynne:

McCoy Wynne is a partnership of photographers Stephanie Wynne and Stephen McCoy. Much of their work considers aspects of representation of the landscape and built environment. They have worked on varied commissions alongside personal projects; all their collaborative projects are undertaken with pooled concepts and picture making.

<http://mccoywynne.co.uk/>

## About Energy House:

Energy House is the world's first-full sized, two-bedroom, brick built Victorian terraced house constructed inside an environmentally controllable chamber.

This unique facility enables research into products to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and address the problem of retrofitting existing housing to improve energy consumption. Fully furnished and packed with a vast array of sensors that can monitor a wide range of variables, this unique facility allows rain, snow, wind and temperature to be specified to precise levels, enabling the research team and industry partners to thoroughly test products designed to improve the energy efficiency of our homes.

The Energy House 2.0 laboratory which opened earlier this year is the largest test and research facility of its type and will play a leading role in the development of new low carbon homes and retrofit technologies.

<https://energyhouse2.salford.ac.uk/energy-house-labs/>

## About Open Eye Gallery/ LOOK Photography Biennial:

LOOK Photo Biennial is a photography festival delivered by Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool. Taking place in sites across the North West, LOOK's programme operates as a cultural exchange both locally and internationally.

The LOOK Photo Biennial 2022 theme is 'Climate' building on from the six week long exploratory Climate Lab which took place between January and March 2022. Open Eye Gallery invited researchers, artists, academics and visionaries to take over the gallery and use it as a lab space, showing work in progress and talking through ideas to tackle climate change. LOOK Photo Biennial 2022: Climate builds upon the research and discovery reported during the Climate Lab, and showcases how photography and visual art can communicate the climate emergency in accessible ways, transcending languages, borders and cultures.

<https://openeye.org.uk/>