



2-303 Lansdowne Ave
Toronto ON M6K 2W5
416 849 2864
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6
www.xpace.info

Live & Active Moirés
Jacob Horwood
Curated by Alicia Nauta
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Situated in the window gallery of Xpace, Jacob Horwood's *Live & Active Moirés* features two almost identical images screenprinted on plexiglass and placed side by side. Upon closer look, the images appear to wobble, shimmer, shift and change, depending on where you are standing. Moving around each piece, the effects of the moiré are highlighted even more.

Moiré patterns - which I originally thought to be more mysterious anomalies - are actually quite ubiquitous once you start noticing them. Moirés appear in many different ways: on television screens, in graphic arts, fabrics and textiles and even on our money. A moiré pattern happens when two identical and usually transparent patterns are overlaid yet slightly displaced, producing an optical effect. This can happen, for example, when someone appearing on television is wearing a particular kind of patterned clothing and their movement on screen causes a moiré effect because of the television's interlaced scanning. It seems very magical and appeals to me the way optical art books appealed to me when I was a kid; where you stare at a design until an image appears. Moiré patterns are usually unintentional and actually avoided most of time, as they can cause visual "noise" and be disruptive in certain contexts.

Jacob Horwood has been experimenting with creating moirés for as long as he has been screenprinting, the medium he works in as both an artist and as a commercial printer. His vast knowledge of the technical processes of screenprinting lends itself to *Live & Active Moirés*, which is an exercise and study of process, materials and effects. The moiré is an elusive thing, where when done correctly, seems to dance and shimmer before your eyes, but is difficult to predict the outcome of. There are many variables involved, including colour, image design, how offset the layers of the moiré are, direct or indirect light and the material the image is printed on. Horwood's two moirés are of the same wobbly linear pattern, created by warping a simple grid, then printing with a high gloss ink on two sheets of plexiglass and overlaid. Side by side, but in different colour combinations of green and yellow, and purple and red, the effect of the moiré is slightly different in each piece. When the sun is shining through the window on the works, there is a third layer created from the shadow on the wall, producing even more interactivity between the layers.

Standing in front of the pieces, the images appear to ripple, and as you move around, the moiré effect is emphasized even more. Staring at these pieces and noticing the subtle ways that the lines interact with layers underneath, you become temporarily transfixed

and without noticing, your feet seem to move of their own accord to keep the lines dancing. There is a mathematical basis to this optical effect, but it seems to reach beyond an equation into a more mystical realm, where a moiré serves as a catalyst to experiencing two dimensionality in a three dimensional way.