



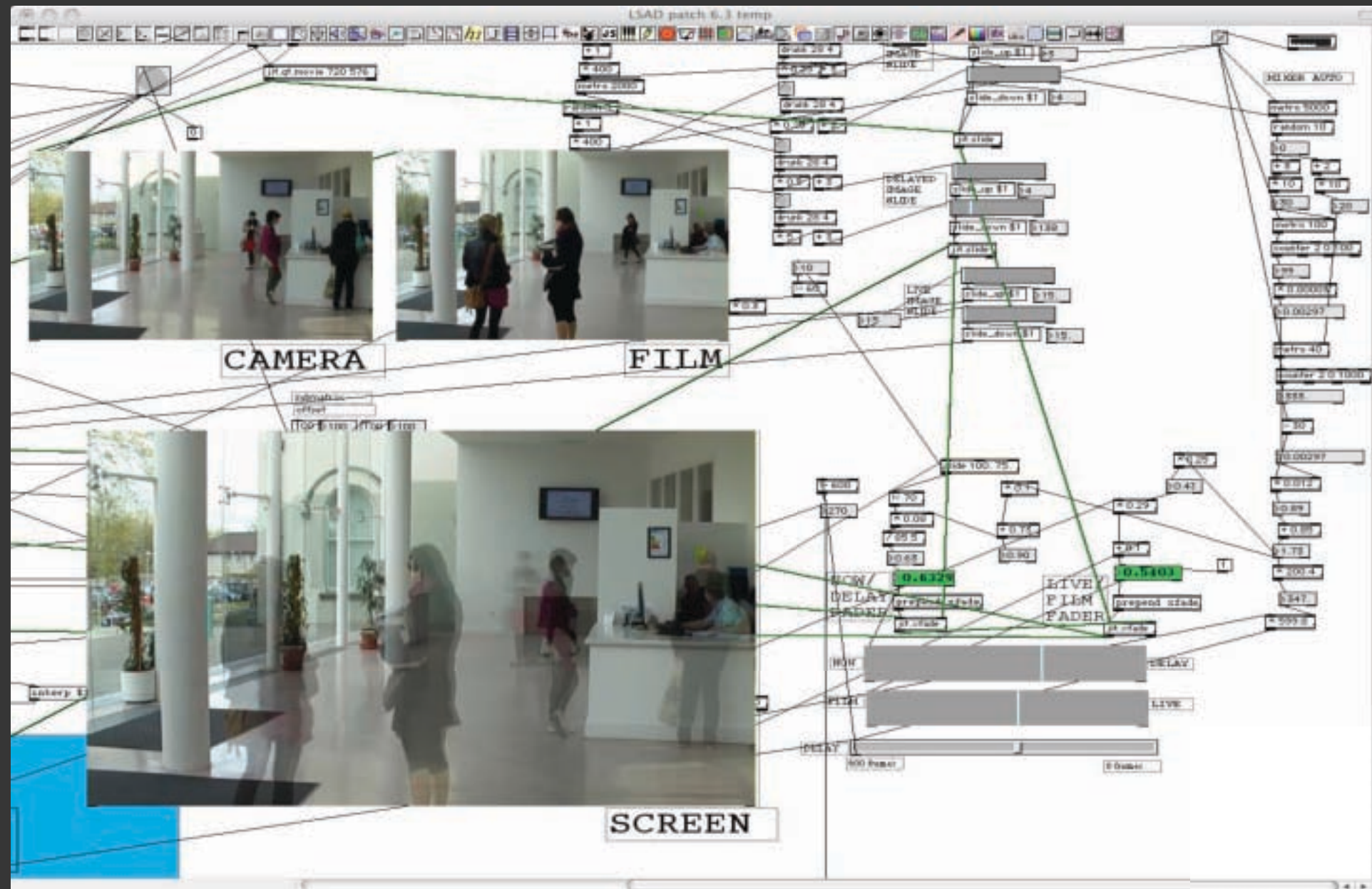
Day One Today

A Permanent installation
for the Limerick School of
Art and Design

Anne Cleary & Denis
Connolly 2009

A PLACE IN TIME

Day One Today is an artwork about a specific place moving through time: the (new) entrance hall to the Limerick School of Art and Design, inhabiting an (old) Convent building on Clare Street. An institution then, but this installation tries to demonstrate that the art school as an institution is like Heraclitus' stream, different each time we step into it. This paradox of temporality and permanence runs right through the work. We measure *Day One* of the entrance hall against the continuous present of *Today*, mixing them into an electronic cloud where what is permanent and unmoving - walls and floors, columns and glass - is inhabited by a ghosts of what moves through it: people. The installation occupies a transition space between the new and the old; between the entrance hall in glass and steel and the chapel in copper and gold. Our intervention makes a corner of golden light in the opalescent glassy hall, setting unoxidizable gold against oxidized copper.



Screenshot of the patch window for the Day One Today software. © Connolly Cleary 2009

A CAMERA, A COMPUTER, A SCREEN

Essentially what we have done is to install a camera. We took a great deal of care in deciding where to place this camera. It must be able to see the architecture, the essential lines of movement of people through the space, and the places where they will stop and congregate. The camera must see a vision of this space that can tell its story. The computer is programmed to capture, distill and relay the information coming from the camera; archived video footage stored on the hard-disk and live footage coming directly from the camera. The screen - a triptych, a video wall - relays the distilled images back to the space.

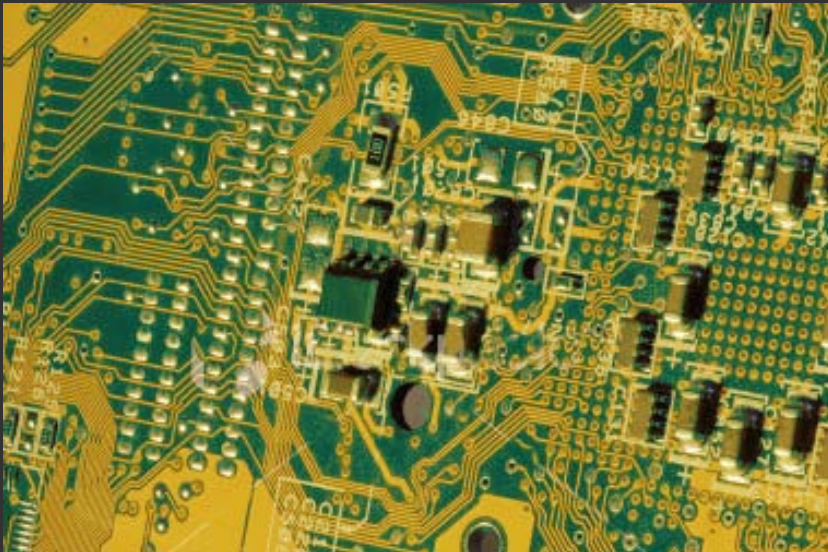


We chose to place the installation at the threshold between the old and the new. On one side of the threshold, the newly built entrance hall to a secular institution, with its cold north light filtered through opalescent glass and its hard prismatic forms; on the other side, the convent chapel with its repeated trinity motif, its ecclesiastical interior of gold stucco, protected from the weather by a green copper dome. The placing of the installation is also a compromise between the needs of the camera (warm frontal light on its subjects) and the needs of the screen (protection from the glare of daylight and reflection). The transition space to the chapel offered the relative shade we needed for the screen. But the reflection from the oxidized copper wall behind (in the already opalescent light from the glass wall) meant that people standing in front of the installation would be green hued silhouettes against the brightness of the hall. The camera, unlike the eye, cannot correct differences in colour temperature, and even appears to exaggerate them. We decided to create a golden wall in front of the copper wall to give the foreground the warm reflected light the camera needed.

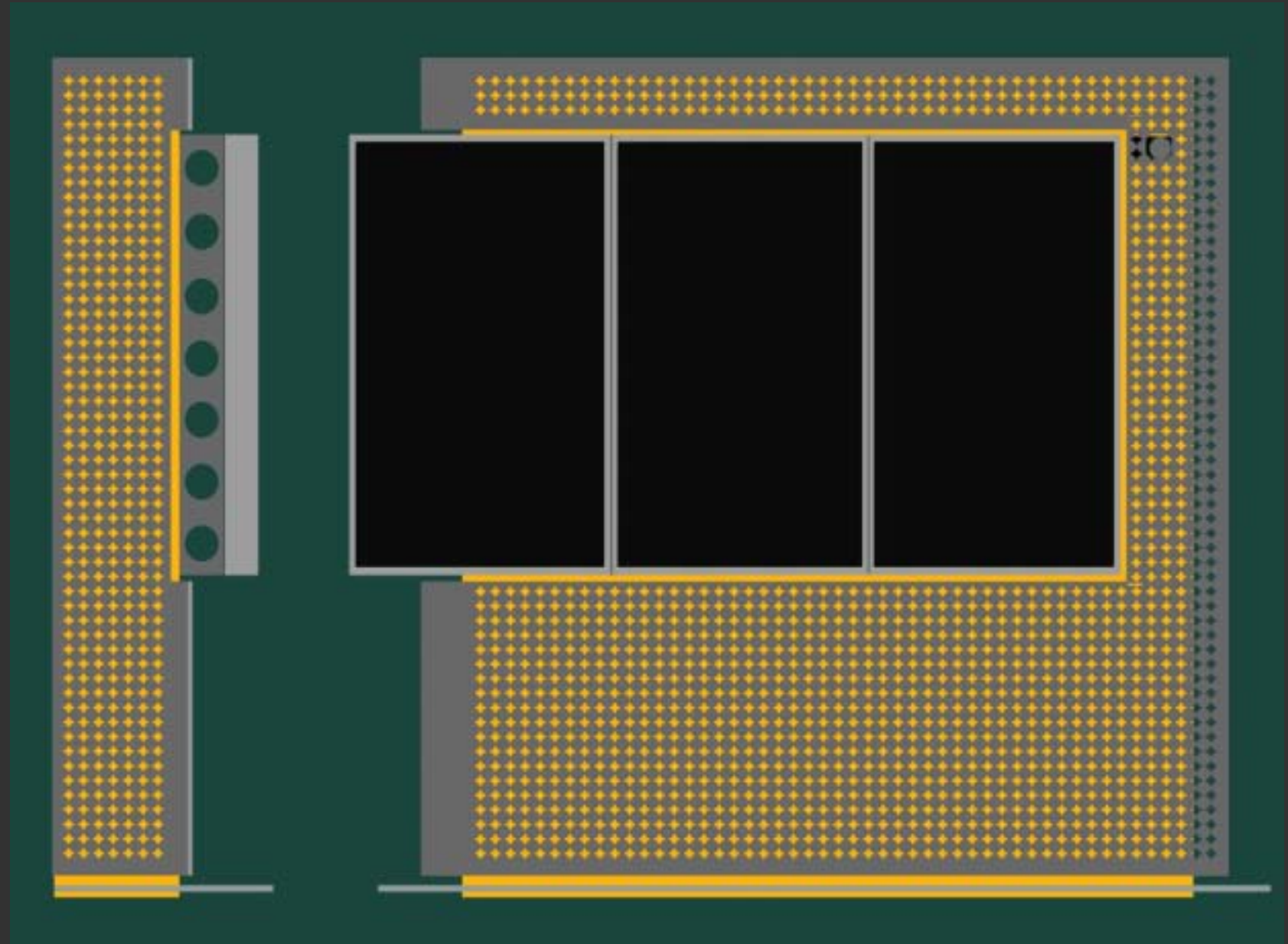




Giotto. Deposition. Scrovegni chapel, Padua, 1247.



Gold in electronic circuitry



COPPER AND GOLD

Once again, we were conscious of a paradox of temporality and permanence in the juxtaposition of materials. Two essential materials in electronics, gold is preferred over copper as a conductor because it is the only inoxidizable metal; it does not age. Two of the most ancient metals exploited by man, gold remains intact for millenia while copper crumbles to dust. Halos of gold still shine out of the verdigris of Giotto's paintings. Copper is a heavy building material, while gold-leaf is so thin it is actually translucent, filtering red and yellow out of light passing through it to leave only blue and green. And on Clare Street, sheets of copper covers a dome enclosing gold painted stucco.



YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

By superimposing two streams of video - one a document of a specific day in spring 2009, the other tapped from the continuous present - we hope to make a work that will mature over the years. At its inauguration *Day One Today* superimposes two almost identical worlds, inhabited by the same group of people, just a few weeks apart. But as the years go by, final year students will see themselves coming into the college for the first time with their portfolios under their arms, students and teachers who have left the school can see themselves in their former lives, children can see their parents before they were born... we will all be able to catch glimpses of people who have gone out of our lives, even those who have left this world. We hope that the installation will offer many people this sort of magic mirror in the years to come.