



INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL
ARCHITECTURE & ART

CHROMOPHILIA

Interventions into institutional collections are well-established, traditionally through juxtaposing objects from different cultures or periods to challenge sanctioned histories by proposing alternatives. While COVID-19 has curtailed personal visits to the physical sites of public collections it has simultaneously expanded audience engagements with their websites and online resources. CHROMOPHILIA operates in this altered environment as a virtual intervention into the digital avatars of 3 plaster casts of Roman copies of even older lost Greek works, normally on display in the Cast Hall of New York's Institute of Classical Architecture & Art.

and immigrated to the United States when acquired by the Metropolitan Museum and in 2004, were part of an important group of significant casts gifted to the ICAA by The MET. For this project these three casts have been animated using techniques that imitate filter apps such as Modiface and Pixaloop that younger audiences use every day in manipulating images for their social media feed. The brightly coloured treatments as well as being historically accurate open the past up to the present in a way that is familiar to a contemporary audience. Coding is used extensively throughout all the works and is based on how close friends often hide secrets for each other in plain sight, where they must be discovered, uncovered and interpreted. An experience that is also integral to how online gaming platforms reward the solving of puzzles.

Plaster casting is a complex process fraught with limitations and difficult to cleave from the larger history and afterlife of coloniality. Like analogue photography it uses a negative to generate a positive and critical information is always lost in the process: it cannot record or transmit colour, fine detail and nuance are diminished. The histories and methodologies of casting are resplendent with compelling, under-explored themes for artists. Particularly those working with issues of memory, authenticity and power in multicultural societies like the United States or Australia, that is: it cannot re

