



Peter Kennard

Daydreaming with Stanley Kubrick

When artist Peter Kennard was invited to show his distinctive photo montages at Daydreaming with Stanley Kubrick – an exhibition celebrating the work of the late director – he chose a rather unusual medium to print them on. While searching for a material that was thin enough to give the impression of newsprint, but also high enough in quality for gallery-standard printing, Kennard found Kozo – a Japanese paper with a weight of just 44gsm. By comparison, ordinary photocopier paper weighs in at around 80gsm.

“I wanted a paper that is delicate and suggests fragility, because human nature is fragile, I think,” Kennard explains. “I also wanted to replicate the look and feel of a newspaper, to emphasise the documentary quality of the images.” Kennard adds that there is a rough, gritty character to Japanese papers that he likes, and

hasn’t found anywhere else in the world. All he had to do now was find someone who could print his images on to it.

Kennard turned to the Print Foundry. This specialist printing house uses Canon imagePROGRAF large-format inkjet printers to make prints for a variety of clients, and has experience of working with all manner of media – from paper to metal, and from canvas to glass. The business’s founder and owner, Renato Taveres, recalls the technical challenges he faced when working on Kennard’s project.

“Peter brought me a sample and I could see that it was an interesting material, but immediately I knew it would be hard to work with,” he says. “The back of the paper is smooth, almost like kitchen greaseproof paper. That makes it potentially difficult to feed through our printers. And 44gsm is very thin – there is no setting to allow for that, so I knew that the printer would put down too much ink on the surface of the paper.”

Company	The Print Foundry & Peter Kennard
Founded	Founded in 2008 Born in 1949
Location	Croydon, UK
Services	Fine-art photography and printing Photomontage
Website	theprintfoundry.co.uk
Products	Canon imagePROGRAF printers



Taveres spent a couple of hours building a specific profile for Koza, using an existing plain-paper profile as a starting point. "That helped a lot, and made an instant difference," he says. "We got to a point where we were very happy with what we were seeing – the images were crisp and looking absolutely great.

"We've had non-standard materials through our imagePROGRAF printers before, and they have always performed very well. You have a lot of fine control over things like the distance between the print head and the paper, and the amount of ink that is being put down."

Playing their part

Tavares and his team say they've enjoyed the part they've played in the production of Kennard's work: "This was a lot of fun to do. Very exciting!" he enthuses. "Being an integral part of the creative process, and not just an end-stage print producer, is a tremendously rewarding experience."

Kennard echoes this view, describing how much he sees the technical production of his images as a part of the creative process itself. And what did he



think of the initial results? "They look wonderful!" he says. "They've profiled the paper perfectly and got exactly the right amount of ink on the surface, which really brings out the quality of the paper. To be honest, they're much better than I thought they would be."

Indeed, the surface texture of the paper that Kennard and Renato have worked with almost begs to be touched, in the same way that sculpture does. "It's one of the great things about large-format printers like those in the Canon imagePROGRAF range: you can experiment with all kinds of

non-standard materials, not just the usual coated inkjet papers," Kennard adds. "There are so many avenues to explore with this technology now. It's certainly not just about making beautiful prints any more. It's also about exploring the physical qualities of these amazing machines."

● **Daydreaming with Stanley Kubrick**
Featuring Peter Kennard and others
Somerset House, London, UK
6 July to 24 August 2016.
For more details visit:
www.somersetthouse.org.uk

"It's all about exploring the physical qualities of these amazing machines"

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