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PUBLICATION: STEALING BEAUTY  
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DESCRIPTION: PROFILE ON THE LIGHT SURGEONS  
TAKEN FROM THE CATALOG FOR THE  
ICA EXHIBITION "STEALING BEAUTY"



STEALING  
BEAUTY

BRITISH DESIGN NOW

AN ICA EXHIBITION IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
PERRIER-JOUËT CHAMPAGNE

### The Light Surgeons

Chris Allen  
b.1974  
1995 BA Graphic Design  
University of Portsmouth

Andy Flywheel  
b.1967  
1992 BA Film  
Derby University

The Light Surgeons use old and new film, slides and video, incorporating diagrams, symbols and interference, layering and cutting them to create rich environments of light and image—performing live, literally DJ-ing in the same way that club djs cut and mix records. Initially, their equipment came from car-boot sales—second and third-hand Super 8s, thrashed slide projectors—but they've recently swapped lo-fi for 16mm format to give them the technology to do larger shows and develop more creative concepts. "The way we approach our work is often just like the way a hip-hop producer would take an old R'n'B tune apart and take the best loop from it," they say. "It's putting loops together to create new meaning. You're picking a part of a cultural object and repeating it until it becomes a groove, then you start layering other things on it, building it up. It's like a band really... but with us, we don't make sound—we throw light around." The Light Surgeons see themselves as light, space and sound designers—working in collaboration with musicians, artists, and other design practitioners within a wide range of creative media to explore the possibilities of time-based productions.

Below:—  
The Surgery.

Right:—  
Stills from The Light Surgeons Reel 001 including:  
Operation Intro  
'Wall Crawling Insect Breaks' promo  
Ninja Tune graphics stings  
Surgeons Interlude  
Wall of Sound graphic stings  
Propellerheads Tour 97  
Mantra Recordings animation  
Cornershop Tour 98  
Cornershop 'Good Shit' promo  
Sneaker Pimps Tour 97  
Surgical Outro

Overleaf:—  
'The Bulo Happening', a film and sound installation at Borough Market in South London, 1998, using slides, 16mm film and 16mm sound loops. Conceived, designed and produced in collaboration with Urban Salon for furniture company Bulo.

Insert overleaf:—  
The Surgery.



