

# Between the idea and the reality

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“Between the idea  
And the reality  
Between the motion  
And the act  
Falls the Shadow”

From “The Hollow Men” by T.S.Eliot

The creation of shadows is a rudimentary form of image making.

To photograph ‘found’ shadows is to capture unintended images.

Shadows are an absence of light, an absence in relation to the presence of light around them.

They are caused by an object blocking the light; they are indexical. They reveal the existence of the object and the light.

If you make a painting of a shadow it is not the same as a shadow; it is an iconic representation of an indexical phenomenon - ‘this is not a shadow’.

If you make a painting of a shadow you are using an additive process – applying paint – in contrast to the original subtractive process in which the light is blocked. By painting the shadow, an absence of light becomes a presence.

If you make a painting of a shadow, you are making something fixed and of substance (substantial) out of something ephemeral and insubstantial (perhaps this is fundamental to the nature of representational painting).

If you paint shadows without the signified object, they can become less intelligible. The source is no longer discernable. Some of the meaning has been detached. And by editing and presenting a fragment of the shadow, the nature of the source is further obscured.

Inverting the image (painting the shadow white and the light black), repeating the image, combining and rotating the images and leaving raw canvas are all variations investigated here in order to explore different outcomes.