

Sue Platt Output September 2019 updated from before

Arising from my practice based research ***Strelnikov's Glasses and Other Stories*** is an international touring exhibition examining the important – yet unacknowledged role of eyewear as a cultural signifier and social signified within cinema. This output is the result of a cross-disciplinary research project that investigates the symbolic representation of character, demographic, and narrative through the use of glasses in film. As curator, co-ordinator, and contributor I worked in collaboration with colleague Graham Jones who both designed and contributed to the exhibition.

Within the research process 24 contributors, formed a discussion group examining the significance of eyewear in defining character or progressing narrative in film: *The Society of the Spectacles*. The resulting exhibition reveals an imaginative, coherent study to communicate new knowledge in our understanding of eyewear in the semiotics of cinema.

My own contribution aimed to question the on-screen representation of female stereotypes and create an initial feminist timeline of eyewear. Artist's Cindy Sherman, Sophie Calle and Francesca Woodman as well as Basinger's *A Woman's View- How Hollywood spoke to Women 1930-1960* contextualise my practice. Dr Joanne Gooding's work on National Health glasses, and Graham Pullin's *Design Meets Disability* reveal significant and historic research, however the role spectacles play in establishing narrative has been largely ignored. My research aimed to be innovative in identifying connections between functional ophthalmic objects and the world of storytelling. In curating the exhibition, I hope to inform a wider audience of the significance of eyewear's development since its original function as a prosthetic. In collaborating with General Eyewear as an outward facing partner I was able to bring their archive into public view.

Additionally, the output reflects the creative methodologies offered through different art and design disciplines.

The exhibition assembled the information in a novel way and informed debate and the curriculum through lectures and projects set within the School of Design at the university.

By touring the exhibition to the Hong Kong Arts Centre in March 2020 we hope to enhance the impact of this research to an international audience. The intention is, that this will form further collaboration – but perhaps more significantly embark upon a greater emphasis on the transcultural response to the research.