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Object Data Memory

An exhibition

The Material Forms of Memory: a creative arts praxis examining family archive
materiality and the performance of memory through installation art

An exegesis

This thesis is presented for the degree of
Masters of Arts by Research

Emily Marie Margaritte Hornum

Edith Cowan University
School of Arts and Humanities

2016

Abstract

This Master of Arts by Research investigates the role of new media in influencing family archive materiality and what effect this has on the performance of memory. The aim is to examine through creative arts praxis how installation art illuminates the participatory engagement of family archive materiality to mediate our mnemonic processes. The source materials for this project stem from my family archives dating from the early 1900s to 2013, and include photographs, 35mm slides, VHS tapes, audiotapes and personal items. The significance of this research lies in the creative outcomes that have occurred through the investigative and critical dialogues between artistic practices and theoretical discourses explored through exegetical writing. This hybrid approach to creative arts research allows for the negotiation of dialogues between myself as: researcher, creative practitioner and the subjective experiences that inform my art making practices (Barrett & Bolt, 2007; Gray, 1996).

The installations that comprise this arts-based research reveal the participatory bodily engagement evoked from family archives across a range of media and how the materiality of these archives influence our memories associated with family. A series of installations emerged, including—video works, photo-media sculptures created from over 3000 35mm slides, projections, new media, photography and audio. This exegesis draws parallels between relevant theoretical discourses, the work of visual artists Tacita Dean and Kutluğ Ataman, and my creative outcomes over the course of this candidature—spanning both studio experimentation and exhibited work. Creative outcomes of this research were exhibited over the course of my candidature, these exhibitions are—*Becomings (2014)*; *The Substance of Memory (2015)* and the final exhibition *Object Data Memory (2015)*.

A reflexive studio inquiry spanning work-in-progress and exhibitions have fundamentally expounded the creative outcomes of this research. Central to this research is to investigate how new media has influenced the traditional role of the family archive. This exegesis aims to elucidate how a creative arts praxis integrating a multi-method research approach, in conjunction with reflexivity, has manifested a series of interactive and immersive installations that illuminate our bodily engagement with family archive materiality and what affect this has on the performance of memory.

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Date.....

Acknowledgements

I would firstly like to thank my family for their encouragement to undertake this research using personal archives—without which, this project would not have been the same. I would also like to thank my family and friends for their remarkable support and for constantly motivating me to reach higher. Secondly, I would like to thank those in the School of Communications and Arts at Edith Cowan University, and all the staff who have provided help and critique along the way. A personal thank you to Nicola Kaye, Donna Franklin, Lyndall Adams and Paul Uhlmann for their supervision and encouragement. I am grateful for the guidance and support that you have all contributed to this project. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful exhibition support from Spectrum Project Space and Free Range Gallery, which has been pivotal for successful exhibition outcomes.

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Research Outputs

Group Exhibitions

Progress, (2013), Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia.

Becomings, (2014), Spectrum Project Space, Perth, Australia.

Solo Exhibitions

The Substance of Memory, (2015), Spectrum Project Space, Perth, Australia

Objet Data Memory, (2015), Free Range Gallery, Perth, Western Australia.

Journal Paper

Practice, Process, Product: a reflexive inquiry into creative arts praxis work in progress. (2015). *The MeCCASA Postgraduate Journal Networking Knowledge*, United Kingdom.

Conference Paper and Presentation

Archiving Praxis: dilemmas of documenting installation art in interdisciplinary creative praxis. (2015). *Australian Council of University of Art and Design 2015 Conference*. Adelaide, Australia: University of South Australia.