

“ STRATA STREAMS “

A Film and Installation Work by Andy Mckay.

Sound Composition by David Wilson.

Duration: 25 minutes

Format: 16x9 HD Digital Video.

ABSTRACT

Images from the physical world of natural forms often inherit characteristics that the brain is able to comprehend in the process that takes place as information from the senses is absorbed to give context, sense and meaning to that which we are seeing – thus providing us with a collective sense of narrative to our experience of the physical world around us. (We can mostly agree when a tree is a tree).

When some of the layers of this information are removed, changed and reconstructed; or we are simply induced - even mesmerised - into giving more time for the *seeing and hearing*, the link between the image/sound source and the sensory context is broken - necessitating a form of narrative reconstruction. (eg. When the image of the tree loses some, or even all, of its “ treeness “)

Does this phenomenon reduce audience appreciation and understanding, or actively challenge our imagination to build new, more individual, diverse and subjective associations and narratives through creative interaction with the work? In narrative terms – that less is more.

Strata Streams is a poetic constantly changing sensory journey that seeks to explore visual and auditory abstraction and narrative association, asking, en-route, questions about perception.



Film still ~ Strata Steams

BACKGROUND



Strata Streams Show - Andrew McKay
Mezzanine Gallery, Millgate Museum
Newark, March 2007

The first principal output from this work was an exhibition of digital photographic montages at the Mezzanine Gallery, Millgate Museum, Newark in March 2007. It was always intended that the second output of this ongoing process was a new work in the form of a large scale motion driven digital projection piece suitable for an exterior building, gallery space or film theatre.

Mezzanine Gallery, Millgate Museum, March 2007.

Both the exhibition and the film stem from a period of 8 years working with a collection of my own original photographs and moving images of abstract natural forms which were shot over a period of 10 years in various world travels and in a range of environments. The stills used in the subsequent “Strata Streams” film composition have been digitally scanned at high resolution and re-worked in multiple layers producing further improvised abstractions and form the basis of a motion based visual journey through constantly changing layers. As the journey evolves, these layer based techniques are applied to increasingly moving image sourced media producing sets of increasingly dynamic abstract image transformations which aim to stimulate the viewer to build their own subjective and sensory narrative associations. The soundscape evolving within the work extends the visual frame with potentially narrative auditory associations at the same time as providing a sense of journey and contemplation.

RESEARCH THEMES:

- The integrity of image in photographic realism and abstraction – understanding the point of transition at which the integrity of the representational image is so changed that it becomes capable of suggesting “something new”.
- Abstraction and Narrative: Audience response and stimulating associations, Creating subjective narratives.
- Moving Image Paintings: Intuitive experimentation with digital imaging.

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