



Queensland University of Technology

Cluster 2: Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Field of Research Code (2 digit) **19**

Field of Research Code (4 digit) **1904**

Number: **2008000674**

Author's name: Keith Armstrong

Title of work: Grounded Light

Statement of the Research Component

The field involved developing and deepening understanding of dialogic modes and contexts of engagement between the public and non-gallery-based mediated performance experiences. The context was contemporary practices of land and site-specific performance art in concert with the philosophies of the Suzuki Actor Training Method and contemporary experimental dance. The investigation drew strongly upon the work of writer Paul Carter (particularly 'Lie of the Land' 1996) in order to examine colonial origins of non-indigenous Australians' prevailing psychological discomfort with the Australian landscape. The performance became both an interrogation and practical invocation of Carter's 'environmentally grounded poetics'. The methodology was primarily practice-led.

The research produced a unique combination of performance using electronically augmented costuming, site-specific discrete electronic lighting and video projection and sustained mountainside/top choreography. The work was examined and expanded in two subsequent peer reviewed papers which scoped out the emerging field of 'Grounded Media'. Curator and writer Kevin Murray further accorded and enhanced these ideas in subsequent critical writing and the work was also featured in a two page major profile in *Realtime*.

The work was commissioned by the long established Floating Land Festival and involved extensive on-site work as well as a residency, production and artist talk series at the Noosa Art Gallery. A documentary film of the work was subsequently presented in the three-month exhibition 'Lines of Sight' for the Nishi Ogi Machi Media Festival, Nishiogikubo Station Platform 1, Tokyo, Japan, curated by Youkobo Art Space.