Oversight : Practice as Research in Australia

Lelia Green
Edith Cowan University

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OVERSIGHT: PRACTICE AS RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA

PARIP 05
Creativity from the periphery

• Lelia Green
• Professor of Communications
• Associate Dean, Research and Higher Degrees
• Faculty of Communications and Creative Industries, Edith Cowan University, Perth
Introduction

- Western Australia
- Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth
- SymbioticA
- Dance and Performance
- Research at the periphery
- Fostering creativity
Defining the periphery

Melbourne

Brisbane

Perth

2 046 miles
London

Moscow

Stalingrad (Volgograd)

1,949 miles
Inaugural Biennale 2002 had the theme of LOCUS- ‘the place where we believe consciousness exists’ Paul Thomas, BEAP Artistic Director, Curtin University

- Conference with 5 strands: primary, started with CAiiA-STAR the catalyst, Consciousness Reframed (Roy Ascott)
- Exhibitions: Immersion, BioFeel (Conf: The aesthetics of care), and Screen
The concept of difference brings with it demarcation lines; be they technological, cultural and/or social. The loss of difference - that which had previously been unique; through the dissemination of content throughout our increasingly digitised world represents a paradigm shift in how we define ourselves, both spatially and ontologically.
BEAP04.ii

• Five exhibitions:
  – PerceptualDifference: Vision Systems
  – SonicDifference: Resounding the World
  – DistributedDifference: Cultures of Conflict
  – BioDifference: The Political Ecology
  – DataDifference: The Dissolution of Locale

• A range of Conferences including the Arts Research Network
  http://arn.cci.ecu.edu.au
BEAP05

- BEAPWorks05 and 06
- Now incorporated and supported by the Australia Council and the Western Australian Department of the Arts, ArtsWA
- BEAP 07 (due to due diligence funding) possibly in conjunction with
- CADE (Computers in Art and Design Education)
BEAP.vis ii
SymbioticA

- [http://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au](http://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au)
- ‘a research laboratory dedicated to the artistic exploration of scientific knowledge in general, and biological technologies in particular’: University of Western Australia
- SymbioticA rises out of and in parallel with the Tissue Culture & Art Project
- Artistic Director: Oron Catts
SymbioticA Research Group

• Fish and Chips
• ‘Fish & Chips is assembled from fish neurons grown over silicon chips -"wetware", software and visual and audio art output devices - hardware.’
• ‘web cam captures portraits of viewers within the gallery space. These images are then converted into a stimulation map and used to stimulate the neurons’
http://www.fishandchips.uwa.edu.au/project/project_portraits.html
Viewers within the gallery space
Effect of neural stimulation
The Tissue Culture & Art Project

Explorations:
- Disembodied Cuisine
- Tissue Culture and Art(ificial) Wombs
- The Pig Wings Project
- Bioreactors

We have grown different kinds of vertebrates’ tissue over/into a variety of biomaterials of different shapes and sizes, in order to create, what we refer to as; "semi-living sculptures/objects".
Dance and Performance: Exemplar

- Chrissie Parrott, Choreographer
- Jonathan Mustard, Musician
- BEAP04 Creative Connections Conference (Arts Research Network)
Research at the periphery

- Artistic and technological networks
- Electronic arts
- The importance of national and international forums
- Support from ArtsWA
- The role of higher education
- Australia Council
- The value of a semi-independent agenda
Fostering creativity

• Perth International Arts Festival (1953—)
‘The UWA Perth International Arts Festival, the oldest annual international multi-arts festival in the southern hemisphere, is Western Australia's premier cultural event’

http://www.perthfestival.com.au

Conference and tourist location; multi-cultural heritage (highest % of overseas born residents)
We’re further away from the core, so we try harder!
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