

OMH Show: UTS Gallery, 2016

12/7/16

Keith Armstrong

Introduction

The | O | M | H | exhibition at UTS Gallery offers a window into the history of my collaborative 'Ecosophical praxis'. The associated public program provides a context for associated discussions that encourage audiences to engage with the cultural imperatives of sustainability, triggered both by the work and the curated conversations and debates.

Approach

I have long sought to use my Ecosophical, participative practices to engage audience's reflection, dissonance and curiosity around the extraordinary complexities of interdependent ecological principles – which include mind, society, culture and environment. Structures and institutions within contemporary society (particularly neoliberalism) have contributed to symbolically 'disconnecting' people from the ecologies upon which they depend. The aim of this research process is to think about that loss, and to offer up temporary spaces and situations whereby participants can choose to re-engage ecological complexity, in a non-didactic process of exploration; thereby gaining different insights into the particular strangeness and future-forming implications of ecological relationships. These insights are further amplified through associated curated panels, workshops, forums and events.

Art and Arts-Led Thinking

Art practice is many things for many people, and like anything it very clearly has its limits. Events such as these can provide a powerful context to conduct thought experiments around futuring, in ways that can question and shake the status quo, especially if it engages people of all persuasions, beliefs and political colours. This may happen at various stages in the planning, execution, exhibition or associated events – all of which act in a continuum.

No one voice, philosophy, knowledge paradigm or practice can ever hold easy answers. There are many horizons and so the purpose of ecosophical practice is to allow us to temporarily 'draw breath' together, in order to examine the maps we have drawn; asking – what do we need to re-imagine now at this time, and how? How can we find common ground across divisions and persuasions that have so long stymied our thinking?



EMBODIED MEDIA

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The 'Place' of OMH

The works in this exhibition and their associated ideas stand as provocations or conversation starters – emerging as they each have from inter, cross and trans-disciplinary collaborations between often very different artists, scientists and cultural change agents, who each found each other because they needed each other's help to move forward when neither the rigour of scientific data, nor the interactive intensity of the gallery experience were enough.

This 'whole of gallery' exhibition therefore seeks to investigate 'meshes' of environmental, social and cultural ecologies that form our worlds, collectively seeking to promote nuanced communication about environmental decline, whilst fostering the collective capacities to address such decline. How therefore might we re-imagine our place and actions within those networks as 're-futuring' - i.e. acting in ways that 'give time back', rather than 'take time away', from the future?

General Credits/logos Required Where Appropriate (catalogue/main wall credit etc.)

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

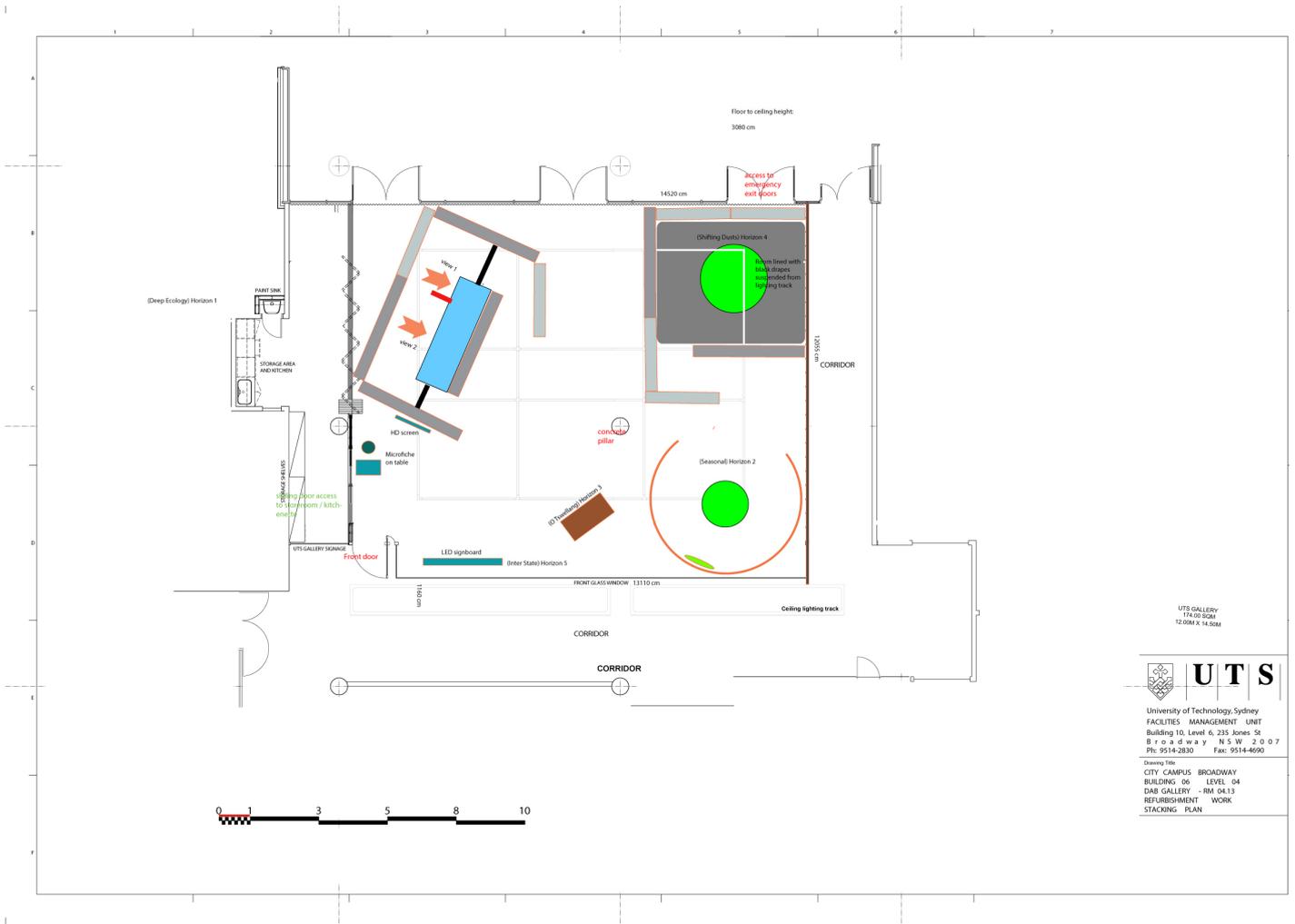
Keith Armstrong is a Senior Research Fellow at QUT, Creative Industries, Brisbane, Australia. He directs the transdisciplinary arts organisation, Embodiedmedia. (www.embodiedmedia.com)

LOGOS Australia Council/QUT/Embodiedmedia to be supplied

Artist Credits: As per each work

Special thanks to – Julie Dean, Kai Armstrong, Michel Haggman, Tania and Eleanor at UTS Gallery, Dr. Tania Leimbach, Prof William Gladstone, Dr. Lisa Roberts, The Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Dr. Peggy Eby, curator/artist An Marosszky, my numerous art-science collaborators. (list more here)

Draft Floorplan 12/7/16



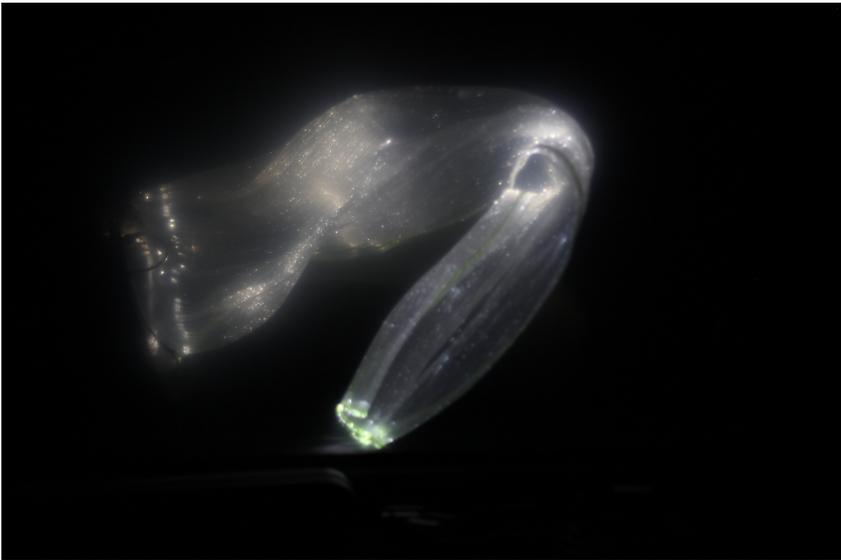
UTS GALLERY
17x22 ROOM
12.00M X 14.50M



University of Technology, Sydney
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT UNIT
Building 10 Level 6, 235 Jones St
Broadway NSW 2007
PH: 9514-2830 Fax: 9514-4690

Drawing Title:
CITY CAMPUS BROADWAY
BUILDING 06 LEVEL 04
DAB GALLERY - RM 0413
REFURBISHMENT WORK
STACKING PLAN

{Deep Ecology} Horizon 1:



FORMAT:

A black space installation of faintly glowing fibre optic forms that travel ethereally through a large liquid-filled tank, propelled by currents and unseen mechanical elements and sonic disturbances.

The work has two view ports – 1: Via a mirror and 2: Through a transparent slot into the tank. Seen through aperture 1 a life like form floats within inky landscapes of media, noise and embodied sound. Aperture 2 reveals a chaotic, mechanical, murky synthesis. Audience viewport is subtly marked with very low-level audience lights – ensuring they are able to find and experience both views. (This process to be designed).

ARTIST: Keith Armstrong

TITLE: {Deep Ecology} Horizon 1

DATE OF CREATION: July 2016

MEDIUM: Glass, fibre optics, electronics, computers, water, lighting, mechanics five-channel sound

DURATION/DIMENSIONS: 4m x 2.5m x 1.5m

CREDIT LINE: Keith Armstrong, Lawrence English (sound), Luke Lickfold. (coding)

AGREED VALUE \$15,000

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

1: Fish tank, 12mm thick Glass, (Without case)

Needs 2 strong people to lift for shipping
90kg est, 1,35m x .55m x .62m.

2: Flat packed Steel table: metal/wood, 70kg approx.

Steel - 1.56m x 0.2 x 0.3m
wood - 1.53 X 0.85m X 0.1m

3: Sundry items, pumps, wiring, screen, lighting, computers, 1x Mackie 10 inch sub, 2 x Mackie MR5s, mixing desk, balanced leads, hardware etc. – in rolling roadcase 1:

Roadcase is .. 1.54m x 0.64m x 0.66m – approx. 50kg

SUPPLIED BY VENUE

Audio leads, 2 x NS-AW392 speakers and Kenwood KRF -V5200D-S amp

10m VGA cable, light tight room, mirror assembly, rear curtain assembly, various black fabric, sound baffles, secure vented location for computers. Pallet jack and single wooden pallet, to move table/tank into location. 2 Garden Hoses – length to suit venue and tap clamp for filling tank, and emptying (via dual pumps), wet vac to finalise emptying. Various size mains cords x 10, power blocks x

Simple maintenance of system each week (tbc).

{Seasonal} Horizon 2:



FORMAT:

A black space installation comprising two large dishes – one 1.5m diameter on the floor with video projections of ultra close up studies of organic materials: the other 0.8m diameter hangs on the wall (with lighting patterns diffused through organic detritus and revolving motorized lighting). Audiences move in between the two discs – the amount of disturbance in the space alter the kinetic intensity of the image and motorized lights – and sound which emanates both from the discs themselves via loudspeakers and through the actions of six remotely controlled motors.

ARTIST: Keith Armstrong Lawrence English (co-direction)

TITLE: {Seasonal} Horizon 2

DATE OF CREATION: July 2016

MEDIUM: Metal, mechanics, motors, lights, 3D printed forms, organic materials, video, four-channel sound, interactivity

DURATION/DIMENSIONS: 4m x 4m x 3m

CREDIT LINE: Keith Armstrong, Lawrence English (co-direction/sound), Luke Lickfold. (coding),

AGREED VALUE \$10,000

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

1: Painted Satellite Dish (**Without case**) + base

1.75m x 1.6m x 0.02m
0.7m x 0.7m x 0.4m

2: painted satellite dish (**Without case**) + wall frame

1.1m x 1.10m
0.85m x 0.85m x 0.02m

3: projector mounting bracket, circular mask and adjustable arm tbc)

4: Sundry items, wiring, screen, lighting, robotics elements computers etc. – in rolling roadcase 1:
(listed above)

5: 2 x Mackie MR5s and 2 small bare speakers, audio interface

SUPPLIED BY VENUE

10m VGA cable light tight room, sound baffles, secure vented location for computers, projector and mask hanging

(O Tswelang) Horizon 3:

FORMAT:

A small-scale suggestive architectural form, created from a matrix of miniature cut glass bottles, displays glass-diffused text animations, in English and Sesotho languages, contributed by social change agents/collaborators from the informal townships around Bloemfontein, South Africa where I am working on a project called Re-Future.

An abstract version of this quote by Thabang Mofokeng, leader of the HOT Rural Workers Collective - is used in English and Sesotho.

There is no time to complain, the only remaining time is to start implementing change if not we will perish.

Ha ho na nako ea ho chacheha ka mohono, nako e setseng ke ea hore re fetohle eseng moo re tla timela.

ARTIST: Keith Armstrong

TITLE: (O Tswelang) Horizon 3

DATE OF CREATION: July 2016

MEDIUM: glass, fibre optics, wood, LED display

DURATION/DIMENSIONS: 1m x 0.5m x 0.5m

CREDIT LINE:

Thanks to

Dr. Ricardo Peach, Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD) - Vrystaat Kunstefees/Arts Festival/Tsa-Botjhaba

Anita Venter and Qala Phelang Tala (Start Living Green)

Centre for Development Support, University of the Free State, South Africa

Angela De Jesus, Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, University of the Free State, South Africa

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Flanders Foundation

QUT Creative Industries

Thabang Mofokeng, HOT Rural Workers Collective, Botshabelo Township, South Africa.

Re-Future is presented at part of the Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD), an initiative of the Vrystaat Art Festival and the University of the Free State. Kindly supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The Flanders Foundation.

AGREED VALUE (specify currency, for insurance purposes): \$4000

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

3: Sundry items, wiring, lighting, text display – in Roadcase 2: 0.93m x 0.64m x 0.60m – approx. 35kg

SUPPLIED BY VENUE

Power, Custom made plinth tbc, spot lighting

(Shifting Dusts) Horizon 4:



FORMAT:

A media artwork in a circular dark space containing a circle of projected film imagery of a floating body, upon a low circular table covered with white sand. The work invites differing states of meditation, exploration, stillness and play.

ARTIST: Keith Armstrong

TITLE: (Shifting Dusts) Horizon 4

DATE OF CREATION: July 2016

MEDIUM: video, wood, beach sand, stereo sound

DURATION/DIMENSIONS: 2.5m x 2.5m x 3m

CREDIT LINE: Keith Armstrong, Charlotte Vincent (choreography), Guy Webster (sound). Dancer TC Howard, thanks to Vincent Dance Theatre.

AGREED VALUE (specify currency, for insurance purposes): \$1,500

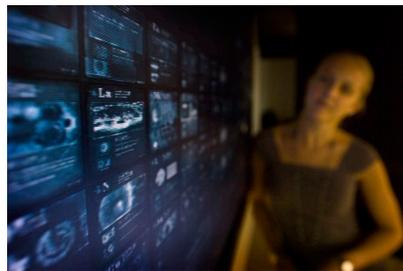
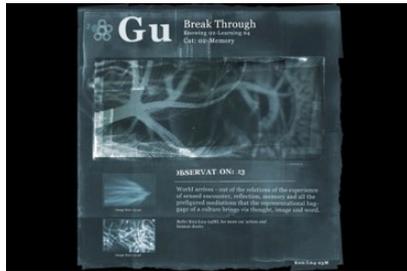
SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

Digital file (HD AV format, stereo)
in rolling roadcase 1 (listed above)
white river/beach sand – enough to cover table surface (4 large sacks)
Pioneer hifi amp

SUPPLIED BY VENUE

Circular room and roof and entrance blacking, Power, wide angled projector, custom circular video mask, mounting cradle and mirror tbc.
Custom circular wooden table mounted off floor, approx. 1.8m diameter picture or larger, 15mm plywood (order 2 full sheets) or similar material, jointed, putty, painted white
2 x NS-AW392 speakers

(Inter State) Horizon 5:



FORMAT:

A relational re-envisioning of the traditional scientific periodic table of elements. With four components.

- 1 Large-scale print, mounted in a hanging light box
- 2 HD TV (or video projection) – animation across the table (TBC)
- 3 Vintage school microfiche reader and 105mm microfiche print of table elements – manually accessible by audiences
- 4 Headphones with stereo sound track.

ARTIST: Keith Armstrong

TITLE: (Inter State) Horizon 5

DATE OF CREATION: July 2016

MEDIUM: Microfiche, microfiche reader, LED Signboard, transparent print, video (tbc), headphone sound.

DURATION/DIMENSIONS: 2m x 3m x 2m

CREDIT LINE: Prof. Roger Dean (sound). Original Imagery developed by Stuart Lawson. Quotes drawn from Tony Fry's refuturing philosophies.

THANKS to John Grosso, eBeam Film LLC, CT, USA

AGREED VALUE (specify currency, for insurance purposes): \$3,000

SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

LED Light box 210 x 100 x 0.12m, approx. 50kg **(Without case)**

Bell and Howell traveller microfiche reader and film – in rolling roadcase 1:

Microfiche transparencies x 2

Digital AV file

Print on semi transparent film (tube 0.9m x 0.15m) – in rolling roadcase 1: (listed above)

SUPPLIED BY VENUE

- Table for microfiche and mounting plate for Microfiche reader for security
- Two chairs
- Sennheiser headphones
- Samson C Que amp (for headphones)
- Panasonic 50" Viera (TBC)