





The *Residual Body* is part of my current research into a reconfiguration of space. This project explores subconscious spaces found between the garment and the skin. Through the emergent technologies of today the work references relationships of spatial paradigms and their effects on culture and power. Just as perspective changed our perception last century so new technologies are now reshaping our presence in the world. The *Residual body* aim is to focus on the spaces found between the skin and the garment as a means of exploring our first physical sense of the space between. Its purpose is to expose and develop meanings of how we perceive spaces which are not considered part of our spatial understandings. The skin in this context works as a metaphorical screen, acting as a sensory layer between inner and outer realities.

In a pre-renaissance world, perspective was not relevant.

“They did not need it. Before the scientific revolution the world was more like a garment men wore about them than a stage on which they moved”.  
(Barfield, 1957 #13 p 94).

I have used this reference from Barfield to show how the concept of space being like garment is where the residual space between the skin and the clothes becomes a significant place.

The perspective gaze highlights that we no longer holistically see space  
“As the whole cannot be approached from a perspectival attitude to the world, we merely superimpose the character of wholeness on to the sector, the result being the familiar ‘totality’”. (Gebser, 1985 #50 p 18)

The work proposes that in residual spaces there is evidence of spatial reconfigurations, a new paradigm that demands a change of perception. The space between the skin and the garment is an initial stage of developing a sensory relationship with the world.

Paul Thomas lives and works in Western Australia

2003 Appointed Director of the Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University of Technology for 2004.

2002 Director of the *Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth* in collaboration with the John Curtin Gallery, Perth 2002.

Co-ordinator and convener Teaching in a Digital Domain Part 3 of the Innovation National symposium – Convener of the CAiiA-STAR Symposium, part of the *Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth*.

Appointed as full-time Lecturer as Director of Studio for Electronic Arts in the School of Art, Curtin University of Technology.

2001 Appointed as Associate Lecturer as Director of Studio for Electronic Arts in the School of Art, Curtin University of Technology.

Instigated the Forums for Electronic Arts Research a collaboration between University of Western Australia and WAPPA@ECU.

1995 Instigated and managed the Techo reading group *Terminus*

1981 Founder member of Media-Space.

## Academic

1996 MA (Hons) in visual art at the University of Western Sydney.

1977 Became resident in Perth, Western Australia.

1976–77 Postgraduate Teaching qualification, University of London, Goldsmiths' College (ATC).

1973–76 B.A. Hons, Camberwell School of Art, London.

1950 Born Lincolnshire, England.

## Exhibitions

2003 Presented *Ambiantspace* at New Forms Festival 2003 Vancouver

Presented DVD work in *Outside Tokyo* John Curtin Gallery Curtin University of Technology

2001 Presented *Archi\_Space* a major new work on the *visiblespace.com*.

2000 Launched *Visiblespace.com* website a permanent exhibition featuring current projects and archived projects.

1999 Participated in the exhibition *Screen\_Image* Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and Sunshine Coast University,

1998–97 Exhibited CD-Rom *Spatial Emergence/Transphysical City*, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane

1997 *The Poetics of Thresholds*, Experimenta Media Arts

1996 *Situations Vacant* retrospective view of art spaces (Media-Space)

1995 Participated in *Pixels* electronic art exhibition at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts. As part of the Artrage Festival.

Solo exhibition *Thresholds* Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.

1994 *Thresholds* solo-exhibition YZ gallery University of Western Sydney

1991 *Visual Thinking* Solo retrospective exhibition of photo documentary work at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts spanning 1977 – 1990.

Participated in a group exhibition at the Pittsburgh centre for the arts.