

Plastic bag study 2017

Video installation

Single work exhibited in a group exhibition / FOR Code: 1905 Visual Arts and Crafts

Exhibited in: **Wau! (Group Exhibition)**

Rovaniemi Art Museum, Finland. January 2018

<https://www.korundi.fi/eventscalendar/WAu!---Focus-in-Western-Australia/e10wabnq/16942bce-962f-42fe-947f-0f633ce67214>

Research Background

WAu! exhibition is composed of West Australian aboriginal artists and the works of internationally acknowledged photography artists based in Western Australia. The exhibition was carried out in co-operation with art center Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation in Balgo, Great Sandy Desert.

The exhibition brings the antipodes to Finland whilst ironically presenting landscapes that provoke feelings of isolation in sparsely populated, harsh, deserted landscapes that Finnish viewers may identify with.

Research Contribution

The work, 'Plastic bag study' is a continuation of the series, 'New Australian plants and animals'. This series is based on single element lenses that re-introduce the viewer to a fundamental, preconscious sensation of the physical world interfacing with the physical self.

This particular work involves an automated sculptural piece whereby a plastic bag is inflated and deflated whilst a single element lens projects the outside world into it. This is then videoed to form the final piece.

By devolving the lens to a point prior to photography's invention I have created unique works that remove the mind's role in rendering flat, sharp perception to reveal an 'arc of focus' which, on different subconscious levels, both makes sense and unsettles. I have then applied elements associated with consumer culture (plastic bag) onto that concept.

Research Significance

The work can be seen as significant as it conflates aspects of phenomenology with post-colonialism and consumerism in novel ways.

The particular photographic process involved has not been employed before to my knowledge in any significant manner. Further, single element lenses as used in this technique has not been used to aesthetically link psychoanalytical theory, through unconscious human vision processes, to modern cultural phenomena.

Rovaniemi Art Museum is an international arts exhibition space within *Korundi House of Culture*, a major arts precinct situated in Rovaniemi Finland.



Plastic Bag Study 2017 (detail) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSGCZ-E82K0>