



MA CONTEMPORARY DIALOGUES

CONFIRMATIVE PRAXIS

WORK-IN-PROGRESS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY 4th & 11th FEBRUARY 2021

MA Confirmative Praxis

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SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY
(DAY 2)

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JOIN US ON TEAMS		
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1000	Welcome & Intro	
1015	CARL SPILLETT	1015
	LAUREN McGREE	
	JO MOSS	
	Panel Discussion	
15mins		
1130	ALED WESTLAKE	1130
	ZIA HALL	
	MELISSA BELACANTE RODRIGUES	
	Panel Discussion	
LUNCH		
1330	MITJA ZUPANC	1330
	SELMO RODRIGUES ALVES	
	NATALIA KIELBASA	
	Panel Discussion	
15mins		
1445	ALEC DAVIES	1445
	YIQING ZHU	
	RHYS DAVIES	
	ELLIOT CADMORE	
	Panel Discussion	

WIP Symposium

Statements/Abstracts

THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY – DAY 2

10.15am

CARL SPILLETT (MA Sound)

I became more aware of silence whilst listening to my sound pieces on continual play in iTunes. I felt the 'sound' was me and the 'silence' between wasn't me. I wanted to add less of Me to my Work. My Confirmative Praxis explores the duality between Silence and Sound.

Silence, Sound, Liminality, Affect, Absence

LAUREN MCGREE (MA Illustration)

My creative practice explores the notion of slowing down and appreciating the small, usually overlooked, moments of everyday life. I am exploring this because I think it's mentally beneficial to be more present in our lives. The majority of our life is made up of seemingly insignificant moments, to ignore and dismiss them would be to not enjoy the majority of our experience.

Watercolour, Illustration, Mindfulness, Wabi Sabi, Nature, Zen, Wellbeing, Ichigo Ichie

JO MOSS (MA Surface Pattern)

My creative practice explores personal well-being during the Covid era from the healing properties of nature to 'gifting' tactile and whimsical felted animals as a way of communication. Influenced by Gaston Bachelard, *'Poetics of Space'*, Marcel Mauss, *'The Gift'*, and artists James Turrell, Mr. Finch, Melanie Klein.

Well-being, Sensory, Reparation, Ambiguous, Nostalgic, Collaboration, Communication, Craftivism.

11.30am

ALED WESTLAKE (MA Photography)

My practice examines narrative and memory to challenge the variances between history and social memory to expose injustices and collective forgetting. I base my work off the theories of Maurice Halbwachs, Ernest Becker, and Walter Benjamin. I am influenced by artists and photographers such as Jeremy Deller and Christian Patterson. My practice combines appropriation, post photography methods, archival imagery, and instant photography to form an immersed concept.

Narrative , Memory, Halbwachs, Becker, Deller, Patterson, Post Photography, Archival imagery

ZIA HALL (MA Visual Communication)

My work is concerned with modern 'propaganda' about the Climate Crisis. I have been volunteering for Extinction Rebellion and am aiming to produce a series of posters for them to promote the Climate Crisis and raise awareness. My work focusses on the individuals around the world who are fighting to defend their particular areas of the globe. In particular, though not exclusively, I have focussed on climate activists who have been murdered as a result of their activism. I am also interested in groups who seek to subvert advertising, either by campaigning to have billboards removed or by hacking into existing public advertising and subverting it to anti-capitalist, pro-society or pro-environmental messages.

Propaganda. Adblocking. Subvertising. Climate Crisis. Climate Martyrs. Extinction Rebellion. Subvertising. Noam Chomsky. Vyvian Raoul. Dog Section Press.

MELISSA BELACANTE RODRIGUES (MA Photography)

As a black female individual living in the West, my creative practice seeks to explore cultural identity, belonging and self-worth in Western society. My practise explores subjects such as migration, post-imperialism and representation. I am interested in how minorities have unilaterally been portrayed as subjugated bodies in history and how that can influence one's sense of self-worth and beliefs about what one can and cannot achieve in life. My research focuses on specific textiles and their links to culture and power and I will be using as reference the works of artists and thinkers such as: Seydou Keita, Yinka Shonibare, Kara Walker, Arthur Jafa, Zenelle Muholi, Carl Jung, Michel Foucault, Gayatri Spivak.

Migration, Heritage, Post-Imperialism, Stereotypes, Identity, Belonging, Otherness
Representation, Foucault, Jung

1.30pm

MITJA ZUPANC (MA Photography)

ART: A Message from G.G.

SELMO RODRIGUES ALVES (MA Sound)

My Praxis uses Sound and spoken word to explore how consciousness is participates in the world. I am interested in understanding how both humans and other-than-human beings experience the world through individual interpretation of sense content and shared experiences in the wider world.

Immersion, Consciousness, Dance, Semiotics, Ethics

NATALIA KIELBASA (MA Fine Art)

The Japanese art of 'Kintsugi' has become a reference point for my practice. 'The golden join', as we call it, refines the ceramics breakage with gold instead of hiding them. Artist treats cracks with great respect as a part of an object's unique history. Kintsugi is strongly connected to Wabi-Sabi philosophy, which simply stays for finding perfection inherent in every temporary, defective and imperfect part of our lives. I would like to lead mentioned above ideas more abstractly and conceptually. Also, I intend to bring up the subject of failure in arts and existence. I do visual experiments with forms of broken ceramics with a direct and more poetic approach. I study, highlight and glorify every single scar using mediums like sculpture, drawing, collage and embroidery

'blessed are the cracked, for they will let the light through'

m.audiard

Kintsugi, Wabi-Sabi, Failure, Object-Subject, Bielle Bond, Multidisciplinary, Eternal Return, Nietzsche

2.45pm

ALEC DAVIES (MA Industrial Design)

I am designing and making a device to combat the fear of needles (Trypanophobia) in young children. I aim to accomplish this by creating a case mechanism that will allow the administration of medicine in a syringe without the patient seeing the needle.

Healthcare, Covid, Needles, Phobia, Hope

YIQING ZHU (MA Visual Communication)

My research explores the application of traditional painting techniques in computer painting, and through this technique, I plan to make an animated short film about my grandfather's experience during childhood. The theme is against the war. All the painting and background music is done by myself.

Animation, Grandfather, Childhood, Anti-War, Painting

RHYS DAVIES (MA Graphic Design)

My personal curiosity to understand the meaning of identity has driven me towards my research within my contemporary praxis. My initial research focused on Identity and its function within society, through this research I found myself presented with questions that correlate with existentialist themes. The categorical explanation in which sociological ideologies present on the discussion of identity is rather melancholy and can be associated to the dilemma of one's own lack of self or purpose. I have studied this through a range of practices such as abstract portraiture and methods in which the work is produced from a combination of different elements e.g., collage, cut and paste and pop art. These methods are used in a fashion which allows me to discuss the complex, fluid and impalpable relationship we have with identity and the dread we experience through this insecurity.

Identity, Existentialism, Portraiture, Bad Faith, Purpose, Pop Art, Collage

ELLIOT CADMORE (MA Sound)