

Julie Clarke



Topic:

Art/poetic text/music

Authors:

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Sound design: Erin
Powell

TITLE: The Body and the City

Abstract:

The Body and the City examines the relationship between the body as a site of spontaneity and change and the en-framing qualities of the city as site in which a critical understanding of this relationship is reproduced. The central theme is identity, which is fluid, changeable and developed as a dialectical relationship between self and other; the individual and the social, the subject and object. The work makes problematic the nature of identity within a social and political context that controls and produces identities, what Michel Foucault refers to as *docile bodies* in panoptic societies. I examine a tactic used by Michel de Certeau in which the individual resists imposed subjectivities of a surveillance society and of what Guy Debord refers to as the *society of the spectacle*. My photographs reveal a concern with people as ornamentation ~ decorous to the landscape, as order and disorder, an arrangement within a fixed urban environment, part of the textural interplay between building surface and body as fluid architecture. More often than not my photographs of ordinary people are about them watching or waiting for the other. The work is a DVD containing fifty-two photographs I took in 2010 of people from the city of Melbourne. These images are interspersed with a poem I'd written and accompanied by a soundtrack of ambient sounds I collected from within Melbourne business district, which were remixed into a sound design by my son. The artwork may be exhibited/installed on a monitor or projected onto a white wall. It runs for approximately 5-7 minutes and may be placed on a continuous loop. **If accepted for installation I can post the DVD to you.**



Example of part of the poem:

*That's what it does
It makes everything bleed out
No odour, No touch, No sound
Everything silent, as though
One's eyes flicker and are, then still.*

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Keywords:

Body, city, identity, difference, ornamentation