

MEDIA RELEASE

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17 Artists showcase re-visioning of cloth and thread through technology and body

The research project *Inter-Sensorial Threads* comprises an exhibition and a supporting conference and is the first event of a series of cross institutional research projects between 2013 and 2015. The exhibition of 17 artists from Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom will take place from 4-13 June in the Faculty of Creative Arts (FCA) Gallery, University of Wollongong (UOW) and the Digital Media Centre (DMC) Exhibition Space, Innovation Campus (iC).

The exhibition explores a re-visioning of cloth and thread through the lens of both technology and the body. This first project in Wollongong, Australia explores fabric through the senses using a broad range analogue and digital technologies. The project approaches art making from the perspectives of research creation through scholarly activities and exhibitions, highlighting artists working across a range of disciplines including informatics-haptics, smart fabrics, wearable technologies, archaeology, sensography and the visual arts.

Inter-Sensorial Threads is primarily an exhibition supported by discussions that explores cloth and thread through a dialogue between artists working with wearable technology; textile artists responding to cloth through the lens of technology and artists working in associated visual arts fields exploring concepts of materiality. Initiating dialogue across the universities in Australia and world-wide, the project aims to re-examine the relationship that cloth and thread has with the body.

“The aim is to bring together artists and researchers working from different perspectives on inter-sensorial ideas in art practices. From the exchanges through practice and dialogue, it is expected that new research sparks will be generated to advance future events or collaborations. The initial gathering at the University of Wollongong is to be followed by ongoing research conversations, exhibition, symposium or other events Canada as identified by the participants” said Dr Penny Harris, Senior Lecturer and Visual Arts Convenor in Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong.

The over-riding theme of *Threads* explores the sensory worlds of touch, sound and sight. This conference and exhibition unravels inter-sensorial languages through new relationships with technology be it electronic, mechanical or analogue. These languages include the body in combination with technologies. The labour of construction invites a reconsideration of the relationship between a cloth object and the sensory experience of artwork.

A two-day international conference (4-5 June) of artists and theorists will extend approaches to relationships between textile media, the body and technology.

Participating artists include: Barbara Layne, Ingrid Bachmann, Leila Sujir, Kelly Thompson, Patrick Traer (Concordia University) Ruth Scheuing (Capilano University), Maria Lantin (Emily Carr University) Vancouver, Maryanne Coutts (National Art School), Diana Wood Conroy, Agnieszka Golda, Penny Harris, Brogan Bunt , Leonie Watson, Aprina Murwanti, Elizabeth Eastland (University of Wollongong) Kay Lawrence (University of South Australia) and Janis Jefferies, (Goldsmiths, University of London).

Interdisciplinary Conversations

The *Inter-Sensorial Threads* exhibition and associated events at the University of Wollongong is to be followed by an exhibition and research workshop in Montreal, Canada (2014/15). The exhibition will be curated by Dr Penny Harris in collaboration with Kelly Thompson (Concordia University).

UOW University Internationalisation Committee grants provided seed funding for this project as well as the Faculty of Creative Arts; Artist in Residence grant and sponsorship from the Centre of Australian-Canadian studies.

The *Inter-Sensorial Threads* exhibition is open as follows:

Where: FCA Gallery, Bldg 25, UOW and DMC Exhibition Space, iC

When: 4-13 June

Official Opening Events: (FCA Gallery) 5pm, Tuesday 4 June and (Digital Media Gallery) 12:30pm, Wednesday 5 June

Media contact for more information, to arrange interviews or photographs:

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