Department of Languages and Cultures

2017 Research Seminar Series

Johanna Zellmer

Senior Lecturer Jewellery & Metalsmithing / Artist-in-Residence Coordinator The Dunedin School of Art at Otago Polytechnic

When the Crafts Enter the Space Outside Themselves



Using currency as a jewellery medium I have become fascinated with crafted objects as symbols within current socio-economic environments. My work comments on both the idea of nationhood, and the politics that regulate national borders. Likewise, my research considers the emergence of Identity Politics in contemporary art in the late 20th century and the current advance of genome technology with its implications for inclusion or exclusion. Collaboration has become an integral aspect of my work, allowing philosophy, craft and science to confer. Molly Nesbit once wrote "The arts are entering the space outside themselves, looking hard to the future". In recent years craft practices have reacted to the so-called 'social turn' and developed strategies to re-define a sense of collectivity and aspects of participation. It is indeed the physical human encounter and the experienced understanding of a specific place which ought to shape craft processes; allowing us, as Nesbit says, to look hard to the future.

Tuesday: October 24, 2017 12:00pm A3N7 (3rd floor Arts Building)