

Remote

By Vince Dziekan



Caption information: Remote: Participating artists (clockwise from top left): Derek Hart, A Maravilha do Rio de Janeiro; Martin Walch, Losing The Plot – XYZ/Tv15-220206; Nancy Mauro-Flude, Take me There: Bring me Back; Vince Dziekan, V.Travels in the Netherworld; Susan Collins, Glenlandia; Pete Gomes, Littoral Map.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The artists represented in this project – Susan Collins, Pete Gomes (UK), Derek Hart (UK/Tas), Nancy Mauro-Flude and Martin Walch (Tas) – each distinctively negotiates their relation to the real world and their works demonstrate how the transaction between reality and virtuality might be constituted today when any firm sense of presence (real space) and immediacy (real time) is exacerbated by technologies that problematize notions of nearness and remoteness, such as the televisual, tele-communications and satellite navigational systems.

While represented through a diversity of expressions that include screen and projection-based moving image work, Webcast transmissions, site-specific installation and locative media, a common point of departure for all is apparent: a confounded sense of place and proximity.

The paradoxical interplay between distance and proximity that is mediated through the contiguous meeting of different times and places in a physical space underpins the curatorial rationale of Remote. By drawing upon these characteristics associated with the featured artists' transpositions of real and informatic space, the exhibition focused curatorially on the distributed properties applied to the exhibition form itself. Its distinctive scenography (by which I mean the interrelationship between curatorial thematics, which are expressed through the communicative act of exposition involving scenic design, and the exhibition as the writing of that space) draws upon the particular characteristics of the Plimsoll Gallery in Hobart, Tasmania and its local environment, which has been incorporated into the overall sweep of the expanded exhibition. This inclusion of other locales in the immediate proximity of the exhibition site – their hyper-linking and cross-referencing back to the exhibition – transforms the experience of the exhibition from its basis in installation of an enclosed, cubic space into something more likened to an itinerary. While naturally occupying gallery space and exercising its language and potential, the works by each of the five featured artists in their own ways also utilize the gallery in more 'instrumental' ways – using the gallery itself as a node or meeting point in a wider network – by interweaving dispersed, inter-connected and superimposed components back to that space.

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BIOGRAPHY:

Vince Dziekan is Senior Lecturer in Digital Imaging, and Deputy Head Multimedia & Digital Art at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

My current focus on curatorial design forms part of an ongoing interdisciplinary project negotiating the impact of digital technologies on curatorial practices and the implications of virtuality on the art of exhibition. I have published in relation to my research in a variety of forms, including exhibitions (such as The Synthetic Image: Digital Technologies and the Image, Small Worlds: A Romance and Remote), peer-reviewed journals and presentations at numerous refereed conferences, both nationally and internationally (including most recently ISEA 2008 in Singapore). I have been an invited panellist on the Tate's online forum (Liquid Architectures) and delivered a keynote presentation at NODEM 06 Digital Interpretation in Art and Science Museums and Heritage sites in Oslo, Norway. Earlier this year I was a Visiting Research Fellow with the Slade School of Fine Art (University College London) and research associate with FACT, Liverpool. Recently, I was appointed to the steering committee of the Virtual NGV (National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne). I am research leader of Photography and Video Research Cluster at Monash University and involved in collaborative research with the National Organization of Media Arts (NOMA).

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<http://www.remoteexhibition.com>
<http://web.mac.com/vincedziekan/>