



LOUISE MCALPINE

HAPTICIVISM: haptic + activism
An Artistic Imperative

MPhil EXHIBITION 15 April - 2 May 2015



FRONT COVER

Louise McAlpine
Studio Process
2015
Recycled wooden
oars and cotton
thread
Dimensions variable

BACK COVER

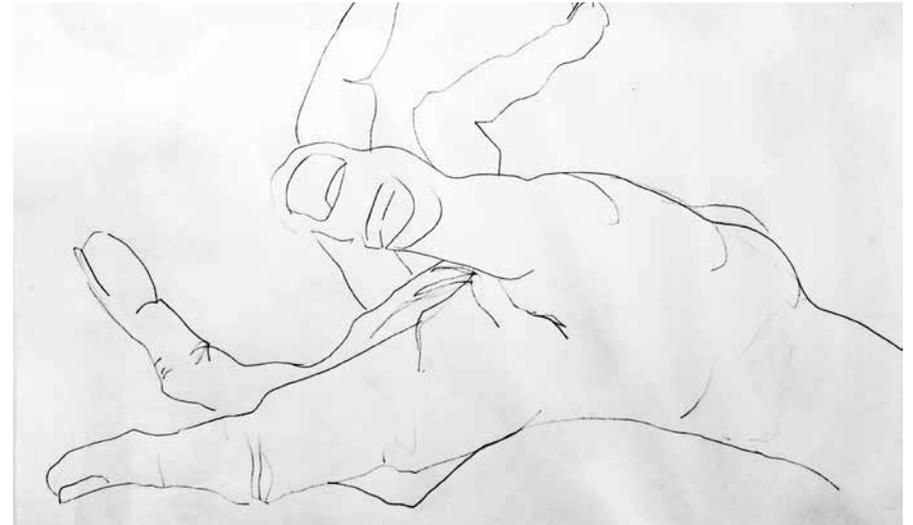
Louise McAlpine
*Studio Process of installation
object*
2015
Mixed media
Dimensions variable

INSIDE LEFT

(above and below)
Louise McAlpine
*Studio Process of
installation object*
2015
Mixed media
Dimensions variable

INSIDE RIGHT

Louise McAlpine
Hand Drawing
2015
Graphite on paper



An artistic imperative in keeping the haptic sensibilities of the artist/object maker relevant..

Rather than present my artwork as visual objects, they are placed in close proximity to the audience as to provide a haptic alternative, one that gives precedent to their sense of touch. This has the potential to re-posit the user in real time as opposed to purely visual or digital time and its mesmerising quality.

My Master's research explores why and how I consider this as a liminal space between material and maker, a moment when crucial haptic information is processed by the body and becomes a creative haptic knowledge. I argue that the constant and sedated touch by our hands – in a ritualistic timeframe at a digital interface – creates a deficiency in haptic understanding; the touch sensation received does not correlate with the visual information on the digital device.

While we, as users, are cognitively aware of this gap, I ask whether this haptically deficient digital time also impacts on the contemporary artist object maker. In response, my objects are textured and multifaceted rather than smooth and generic.

I propose that the space where the artist's haptic skill knowledge is born is a liminal space where creativity is unbounded, defined by its being 'other' than a single type of engagement, a 'monosensory approach,' as existing in the digital environment, and wherever the visual dictates perception.

These objects emphasise this liminal space and its artistic importance, as it is where the artist/object maker navigates intimately through medium and process via their sense of touch. Recognition by the artist of this liminal space is ambiguous and there is a reliance on the maker to be constantly attentive through actual contact with their mediums and process.

My work suggests that creativity can only be positively affected by the physical/bodily sensing of all phenomena, not just constant two dimensional, flat or abstract phenomena.

- Louise McAlpine, 2015