

RIFTS: Particulate Matter

Testing Grounds, Melbourne, 1 City Rd, Southbank VIC 3006
4-14 July 2018 (Open Wednesdays-Saturdays only)
Opening event: Friday 6 July 2018, 6-9pm

Co-curated by Kat Kohler & Dr. Rachel Marsden

With artists I-Yen Chen, Nikki Lam, Siying Zhou, Yan Yang, Yandell Walton & Youjia Lu, and spatial designers Stephen Yuen & Stephanie Liddicoat

Instigating a dialogue through artistic research-based practices and interdisciplinary approaches, this project responds to society's relationship and growing tensions with the built and natural world as a result of environmental change.

RIFTS: Particulate Matter connects and collaborates with two curators, six artists and two spatial designers to present different imaginative and real, individual and collective existences and potential futures relating to the theme, as seen as "particulate matter". Working across a range of sculptural, digital projections and film techniques, the artists and spatial designers translate physical and psycho-analytical experiences to provoke audiences to reconsider their spatial surroundings. Through multiple levels of intensity and engagement, the works offer a space devoid of time to question local to global and socio-political ecological impacts, including how they relate to personal experiences including our emotions, social anxiety and mental wellbeing.



This project profiles the work of current students, alumni and staff from the University of Melbourne, Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and Melbourne School of Design (MSD), as part of the initiative ACP PROJECTS. Instigated in 2017, ACP PROJECTS (Art Curatorship Partnership Projects) provides professional development opportunities to Master of Art Curatorship students through external partnerships with arts and cultural organisations across Australia.

For further information, please contact: acp-projects@unimelb.edu.au

VR event and panel discussion

Testing Grounds, Melbourne, 1 City Rd, Southbank VIC 3006

Closing event: Saturday 14 July 2018, 4-6pm

Created by spatial designers Stephen Yuen and Stephanie Liddicoat

The closing event for *RIFTS: Particulate Matter*, comprises the virtual reality experience *Pilgrimate* and associated panel discussion.

4.00 - 4.30pm **Guest/visitor arrival and VR experience**

4.30 - 5.30pm **Panel Discussion** - With Stephanie Liddicoat (The University of Melbourne), Mond Qu (United Make), Simon Drysdale (Marchese Partners), Stephanie Andrews (Liminal VR), and Darren Vukasinovic (Ignition Immersive). Chaired by Stephen Yuen.

5.30 - 6.00pm **Drinks reception**



Pilgrimate is an architectural virtual reality application designed as a spatial, meditative experience to create an emotional outlet for individuals coping with social anxiety. As a pilgrimage of sequential spaces based on psycho-physiological processes, users are guided through a personal ritual of choreographed experiences to evoke relaxation, acceptance and ultimately, greater comfortability with interpersonal interactions.

The panel discussion brings together a diverse range of speakers to further explore and question critical spatial practices and perceptions of built, natural and digital environments relative to environmental change, technological change, mental health and wellbeing, individual and collective narratives, and psycho-analytical experiences in contemporary contexts and contested spaces.

For further information on Stephanie Liddicoat and her practice:

- <https://msd.unimelb.edu.au/about/our-people/academic/stephanie-liddicoat-ocampo>
- <https://unimelb.academia.edu/StephanieLiddicoat>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/the-architecture-of-therapy/8808126>

Image Credits:

Page 1: *The Consequences of Success* (2015-18) by Siying Zhou. Sugar castings of English vegetable and fruits, red gum, metal chains, Single-channel HD video, C-type print. Photography by Brent Edwards, image courtesy of the artist.

Page 2: *Realm of Precarity* (2017) by Stephen Yuen. A virtual experience based on principles associated with graded exposure therapy intended to assist individuals with social anxiety. Image courtesy of the artist.

Curator Biographies:

Dr. Rachel Marsden is a curator, researcher, educator and arts writer, currently Lecturer in Art Curatorship at the University of Melbourne. Research interests focus on transcultural studies, cultural translation and curatorial practices in China and the Asia-Pacific. More specifically, the social and networked art practices of occupy movements in Asia, and women's art practices in the Chinese context relating to trauma, skin and wellbeing. She is also Projects and Partnerships Manager for *ACP PROJECTS (Art Curatorship Partnership Projects)* at the University of Melbourne, and founder and curator of *The Temporary*, a curatorial exchange platform between the UK, China and Australia.

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Kat Kohler is a curator and museum professional from Chicago, Illinois and Victoria, British Columbia. She is an alumna of the Master of Art Curatorship program at the University of Melbourne. Currently, she works at Melbourne Art Foundation for the Melbourne Art Fair 2018, and with the university as an Assistant Producer for the Faculty of Arts.

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