

Dis/Placed Realms: an exhibition of photography [solo exhibition]

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Research Background

Current digital and photographic media technology have been used to explore the contemporary science fiction model in which the idea of alternate realities has already been established. This research identifies how increases in technology create a sense of human displacement in a world where virtual experience, cloning and genetic engineering have become everyday topics.

Research Contribution

The digital photo-media exhibition (Dis)Placed Realms by Debra Livingston addresses the question of how new technologies are disrupting many fundamental assumptions concerning human experience. This research recognises via film-based photography and digital software that there have been fundamental shifts in our perception. The contribution of the research is to challenge the reality of normal perception, where the fictional and the (im)possible have become the norm. By using concepts of synthetic versus organic and actual versus virtual the work examines the blurring of these boundaries in the digital realm and illustrates the merging between the earth we experience and the alien worlds of our imagination.

Research Significance

The significance of this research is that it demonstrates via film-based photography and digital manipulation new benchmarks for understanding how technological developments such as the evolution of future networked minds, are creating a more fluid and invented sense of self. The research challenges the existing boundaries that define our identities—to reveal identities that are constantly mutating. The work shows how what was once thought of, as mere science fiction is now fast becoming reality. The significance and value of the research is attested by the following indicator, acceptance for exhibition at the Caloundra Regional Gallery, Caloundra, and published in the Sunshine Coast Weekender including the Sunshine Coast Regional Council website.