HiTech-HiTouch: Digital Photomedia [solo exhibition]
Bribie Island Community Arts Centre
23 June – 5 July 2007
Livingston, Debra

Research Background

The background research for this project explored the potential new media has for transforming our perception of images of nature in the virtual space. Virtual space is increasingly changing the way we view images, creating a fundamental ontological shift in our visual constructions of what we call reality. The actual has, in effect, been replaced by the world of desirable simulation that manifests a believable reality that synthesises fiction and reality, and influences our view of the world around us.

Research Contribution

The Hi-Tech exhibition by Debra Livingston addresses how electronically mediated societies are rapidly and collectively re-creating new models of reality because of the increased exposure to image and information. The research contribution questions that people will eventually lose the ability to distinguish between the simulated or hyper-real world and the natural. The innovation of the research uses the materiality of the photograph to sensuously exploit in a subjective way, the three-dimensionality in the work, to release the residues of nature which were previously invisible by opening new ways of interpreting realities.

Research Significance

The significance of the research is that it encounters our changing perceptions of nature by forming digital patterns of recall that appear through the exploration of virtual hyper-real 3D visual sensory recognition within the work. Significantly the work brings into play the present to observe and expose the effects of our industrialization and re-present these as metaphorical views of how we change nature through our increased use of technology. The significance and value of the research is attested by the following indicator; acceptance for exhibition at the Community Arts Centre, Bribie Island.