

ICFAR Master Class for UAL Doctoral Students

taken by **Dr. Anita Ponton**

1st December 2009, between 2pm and 5pm

Art Workers Guild

6 Queen Square Bloomsbury

London, WC1N 3AT

What does it mean to an artists to undertake and complete a PhD? What can PhD students who are themselves practicing artists learn from artists who have undergone the doctoral process? This academic year ICFAR and RNUAL will be running four master classes that address questions of practice within the context of doctoral work. Each class will be led by an artist who has undertaken a PhD project. Artists will introduce their own work, and talk about the ways in which they approached their own PhD, reflecting on how the doctoral work has informed their current intellectual and creative practice.

The second of this year's ICFAR master classes will be taken by Dr. Anita Ponton:



Still from *Unspool*, Photography: Flip Wibbly Jelly.

"In my practice I work across multiple disciplines, with an emphasis on the performative, I seek to interrogate the relationship of the female body to visibility, to representation and to space. My research, originating with my PhD project, considers the impact of technology on the body in performance. As well as discussing aspects of my practice, I will discuss my methodology as a practice based researcher.

I will briefly outline a strategy that made it possible for me to somehow 'speak through the practice' and into the theory, in the form of academic writing. In my understanding of practice-based research, the artist/researcher has to develop a highly specific and personal methodology, according to the specifics of their practice. For me, a constant involvement with technology (both hi and lo-fi) demanded that I find a

methodology that could address both the ramifications and impact of these technologies upon the work (after all, no material, no technology is neutral within any artwork), as well as some of the philosophical issues raised with regard to representation and self-hood (a by-blow of my performances)."

"Using my own experience as a starting point for a seminar on practice based research strategies, I will discuss the relationship of artistic practice to research interests. Drawing on personal experience, I will speak to how an artist/researcher develops a language or strategy that enables and facilitates effective and rigorous practice-based/practice-led research. I will focus on developing methodologies and examine how one creates a useful research plan and talk about the pitfalls and difficulties one encounters in this kind of research, and how one might solve or deal with them." - Dr. Anita Ponton

The second half of the master class will open up a broad discussion around various issues pertaining to artists and research. There will be the opportunity for students to ask questions and to discuss ideas and approaches with reference to their own research and career development.

TO BOOK A PLACE ON THIS PhD MASTER CLASS PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS RALLS AT c.ralls@csm.arts.ac.uk OR BY PHONE ON 020 7514 8546

