



Jenny Shellard

Title: Light Cloth

Date: 2009

Medium: suspended textile 130 x 40 cm

Hand woven spun silk, hand dyed

Statement

Light_Cloth project was developed from an earlier 2003/04 AHRB funded research project involving practical investigations into dynamic interactions between light and hand woven fabric. The work initially explored the application of a range of light responsive, fluorescing, iridescent and reflective materials with U.V and fluorescent light. Installations evolved as single, non-repeat, monochromatic hand woven images which became a motif for subsequent pieces. In this recent AHRC funded research (2007-08), new investigations have focused on colour, light, and the inherent mechanisms of visual perception within time-based textile installations. Shards of strategically positioned coloured light are selectively and accurately projected upon a hand woven textile installation using a digital projector. Projected colour gradates, barely perceptibly, through the spectrum as a slow-transition looped video. The compositional elements of hand-dyed colour within the textile are precisely engineered - together with the animated light/colour fragment – in order to impact and register accurately. The projection is both affecting and enhancing the lit portion and – by simultaneous contrast - the surrounding composition appears also to change colour. The perception and self conscious experience of colour change are key concerns of the installation included in the exhibition Unwrapping the Line and although the quality and surface of the hand woven textile continues to play an essential role, the deliberate and effective blending of technology has resulted in reciprocal components contributing to a unified outcome. Furthermore, by subjugating and concealing the evidence of technology – setting the projector well above eye level - the outcome succeeds in its aim to appear subtle, enigmatic and meditative.

Biography

Jennifer Shellard originally completed her first degree in Jewellery and Silversmithing later taking up weaving through an MA in Constructed Textiles at the Royal College of Art in London. She has shown work in numerous UK and international venues including group exhibitions in Lithuania, Ukraine, Latvia and Australia, as well as at Contemporary Applied Arts in London where she is a member. She recently established the new BA Fashion Jewellery course at London College of Fashion, where she holds a fractional Senior Lecturer academic/research post. She has exhibited her research and contributed to a wide range of conferences and symposiums focusing on contemporary textiles, 21st century crafts, fashion and design. She has run workshops in Sri Lanka for the government supported Handweavers' Group, and, on behalf of LCF, has run textiles courses at Moratuwa University as part of the Fashion Textiles degree programme. She is an active member of the University of the Arts Textile Futures Research Group, the LCF Artifact Hub and more recently Hybrid Practices – set up to investigate the current status of hand making and practice-based research. She is a visiting lecturer in other Universities textile departments including Brighton and University of the Creative Arts, Farnham.

<http://www.fashion.arts.ac.uk/lcf-research.htm>
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