

The Sixth Sense & Materialism

The Sixth Sense: A provocation...

“Sense (or senses) without an organ – the so-called sixth sense”

(Howes 2009)

Lived experience of fashion and dress

- Experiential dimensions
- Intangible aspects of felt experience that are seemingly unaccountable or other worldly
- Holistic approach
- Sensuality and emotion
- Connections with materiality and things



Things that haunt us...

Merleau-Ponty describes things in the world as 'associated bodies', 'others who haunt me and whom I haunt' (1993 [1964]:122). He proposes an ambiguous and 'strange system of exchanges' between people and things, one that is hard to grasp, but in some ways by its nature reflects the more ambiguous aspects of experience, the often 'intangible' sense of connection participants had with certain items of clothing.

“So they’re kind of these spiteful pair of shoes in
the corner of the room”

(Ryan Interview 1: 00:41:46)

Magic!

- Materialism
- Magic
- Affective atmospheres
- Imagination
- Ecstasy
- Ritual
- Enchantment

“All this to draw attention to the enigma of this garment cut from a simple bit of warm night: there is continuity between the world, body, hand, garment. The designing hand of the child: night, the hand stuffed with stars, the hand making a starry jacket. From sky to body, the stars wend their way, in neat formation”

(Cixous ‘Sonia Rykiel in Translation’)

What is the value of the 'sixth sense'
to our fashioned lives?

“it can be argued that we have been blinded to
sensory diversity by an overexposure to the now
- standard five-fold arrangement of the
sensorium”

(Howes 2009)