

Notes for Walking an augmented landscape: spatial narrative, walked practices and locative technologies



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Submitted as an exegesis and folio of creative work for the degree of Doctorate of Creative Arts, 2014

Certificate of Original Authorship

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Signature of Student:

Date:

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Abstract

Since the early 2000s, media artists have explored the area of location awareness through diverse locative media projects in which geographical space acts as an interface for artistic engagement and intervention, mediated by mobile devices. Many of these locative artworks involve navigating landscapes annotated or augmented with personal, social or historical narrative and meaning, in which landscape acts as an interface to specific digital contents. Such place-based storytelling projects involve annotation, narrative spatialisation and movement through a simultaneously real world and virtually augmented space. Certain older cultural practices also involve complex relationships between spatial narrative, annotated landscape and movement through space; such as pilgrimage, the *ars memoria* and similar walked and embodied practices.

This thesis investigates the potential relationships between these earlier practices and contemporary approaches to spatial annotation and augmentation in locative projects through field and practice-based research. It is also a creative exploration of spatial narrative and practices of walking an annotated, augmented landscape; researching the ways in which an understanding of earlier cultural practices might extend and enrich our approaches to locative media and to modes of engaging audiences in location based work. The research leads to the development of a set of creative artefacts as responses to these investigations; culminating in *Notes for Walking (the space in-between time)*, a locative artwork exhibited within the Sydney Festival in January 2013.

Contents of the support materials

The two included DVD's contain documentation and creative materials relevant to the doctorate as follows:

DVD 1

A data DVD comprising:-

Pilgrim (2008-2010) video montages– early work-in-progress

1. World Youth Day Sydney montage
2. Kolkata Durga Puja montage
3. Durga immersions montage
4. Shikoku henro montage
5. Japan Shikoku montage
6. Shikoku montage
7. Hanatouro montage

Cleanse (2010) – the minor creative work

1. Full compile of *Cleanse* video material

Notes for Walking (the space in-between time) (2013) – the major creative work

1. Full video compile of all thirteen Notes (at full screen resolution)
2. Notes 1-13 at actual mobile phone screen resolution, provided as separate files or notes (as per the mobile locative app experience)

DVD 2

A playable DVD, comprising:-

The gallery installation of ***Notes for Walking (the space in-between time)*** (2013). This is the January 2013 version of the gallery installation video with a stereo downmix of the 5.1 surround sound design

[Production note: the DVD 2 needs to be accessed via the print thesis. Both DVDs and print copy of the thesis are available for consultation at UTS Library.]

Additional online support materials

Additional online materials relevant to the doctorate (and unable to be supplied on DVD) include:

Notes for Walking iOS app (Australian Appstore only)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/notes-for-walking/id588274875?ls=1&mt=8>

Notes for Walking website

<http://www.creativecultural.com/notesforwalking/>

Notes for Walking Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/NotesForWalking>

(Note: The *Notes for Walking* mobile phone iOS app is still available from the Australian app store at the time of publication)

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: On landscape as an interface	1
Contextualises the research in terms of locative media, spatial narrative, walked practices and earlier practices of annotated and augmented landscape. Also outlines the research questions, methodologies, and creative outcomes of the doctorate.	
Chapter 2. The locative terrain.	25
Describes the background to GPS technologies and their use by media artists since late 1990s, and details the influence of artists and artworks on the DCA research.	
Chapter 3. <i>Pilgrim</i>: spatial narrative and walking a meaningful landscape.	47
Describes the research into pilgrimage as a form of spatial narrative and augmented landscape, and the field research undertaken in Australia, India and Japan. It includes extended research undertaken in Shikoku, Japan, and the emergence of a model for the development of the later creative work.	
Chapter 4. Locating ghosts: haunted waters, agitated space and place-based storytelling in <i>Cleanse</i>.	76
Describes the development of the minor creative work <i>Cleanse</i> (2010), an installation and place-based storytelling artwork emerging from the research and exhibited in the <i>Memory Flows</i> exhibition.	
Chapter 5. <i>Notes for Walking (the space in-between time)</i>: augmented landscape and walked, spatial narrative in the ruins of Middle Head.	97
Details the conceptual and creative development of the major creative work <i>Notes for Walking (the space in-between time)</i> and its exhibition within the Sydney Festival 2013.	

Chapter 6. Reckonings, lessons and reflections	154
Reflects on the overall research trajectory, its findings, outcomes, significance and possible future directions.	
Appendix	172
Technical Appendix, design scoping brief, and various Australian media articles and materials concerning <i>Notes for Walking</i>	
Bibliography	188

List of Illustrations

- Figure 1: Layar Augmented Reality mobile browser
- Figure 2: Filmtext (Amerika 2002)
- Figure 3: Filmtext (Amerika 2002)
- Figure 4: Nightingales Playground (Campbell 2009)
- Figure 5: The Dead Tower (Campbell & Breeze 2012)
- Figure 6: of day, of night (Heyward 2002)
- Figure 7: of day, of night (Heyward 2002), walking 1
- Figure 8: of day, of night (Heyward 2002), walking 2
- Figure 9: of day, of night (Heyward 2002), walking 3
- Figure 10: of day, of night (Heyward 2002), walking 4
- Figure 11: Traces: stories written upon this town (Heyward 2005), postcard
- Figure 12: Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), location image
- Figure 13: Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), iPhone capture
- Figure 14: Can You See Me Now (Blast Theory 2002)
- Figure 15: Uncle Roy All Around You (Blast Theory 2003)
- Figure 16: Deviator (pvi collective 2013)
- Figure 17: Transumer (pvi collective 2011)
- Figure 18: 34N118W (Hight, Knowlton & Spellman 2003) GPS tablet
- Figure 19: 34N118W (Hight, Knowlton & Spellman 2003) walking
- Figure 20: Urban Tapestries (Proboscis 2004)
- Figure 21: Murmur (Murmur Project 2003-2009), ear poster
- Figure 22: Murmur (Murmur Project 2003-2009), map
- Figure 23: Traces: stories written upon this town (Heyward 2005) image
- Figure 24: Traces: stories written upon this town (Heyward 2005) postcard
- Figure 25: Trace (Rueb 1999), walker with backpack
- Figure 26: Trace (Rueb 1999), Yoho National Park
- Figure 27: Her Long Black Hair (Cardiff & Bures Miller 2004)
- Figure 28: Alter Bahnhof Video Walk (Cardiff & Bures Miller 2012)
- Figure 29: A Line Made By Walking (Long 1967)
- Figure 30: The Memorial Walks (Pope 2007-8)

Figure 31: Nearamnew (Carter 2005)

Figure 32: Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Gignac, France

Figure 33: Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Wozniki, Poland

Figure 34: Interior Stations at the Cross , Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral

Figure 35:- Stations of the Cross crucifixion re-enactment, Sydney 2008

Figure 36:- Stations of the Cross re-enactment, Sydney 2008

Figure 37:- Stations of the Cross Crown of Thorns, Sydney 2008

Figure 38: WYDo8 composite, Pilgrim (Heyward 2008)

Figure 39: Pandal featuring goddess Durga, Durga Puja, Kolkata, 2008

Figure 40: Pandal, Durga Puja, Kolkata 2008

Figure 41: Pandal, Durga Puja, Kolkata 2008

Figure 42: Goddess Durga in street pandal, Durga Puja, Kolkata, 2008

Figure 43: Ceremonies during Durga Puja, Kolkata, 2008

Figure 44: Feeding the goddess, Durga Puja, Kolkata, 2008

Figure 45: Street dancing during Durga Puja, Kolkata, 2008

Figure 46: Map of Shikoku showing 88 Temples ringing the island

Figure 47: View from Temple 23 Yakuoji, Shikoku, Japan

Figure 48: View from Temple 84, Yashimaji, Shikoku, Japan

Figure 49: View from final approach to Temple 12, Shosanji, Shikoku, Japan

Figure 50: Henro tour group stairs at Tairyuji

Figure 51: Straw hat of a motorcycle henro, Yakuoji

Figure 52: Henro bus tour group collect their staffs, Temple 23, Yakuoji

Figure 53: Shikoku temple attendant drawing calligraphic stamp

Figure 54: Shikoku Stamp Book

Figure 55: Statue of Durga being carried, Durga Puja, Kolkata 2008

Figure 56: Statue of Durga immersed in the Hooghly River

Figure 57: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), installation

Figure 58: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), *Immerse* video still

Figure 59: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), installation

Figure 60: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), *Car* video still

Figure 61: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), *Asylum* video still

Figure 62: Cleanse (Heyward 2010), *Geiger* video still

Figure 63: Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney 2010

Figure 64: Hanatouro Festival, Kyoto 2009

Figure 65: Hanatouro Festival, Kyoto 2009

Figure 66: Empty cannon emplacement, Outer Fort, Middle Head, Sydney

Figure 67: Colonial traces, Outer Fort, Middle Head, Sydney

Figure 68: Abandoned tunnel, Inner Fort, Middle Head, Sydney

Figure 69: Cannon emplacement, Outer Fort, Middle Head

Figure 70: Viewing tower, Outer Fort, Middle Head

Figure 71: Unfenced cliff view, Outer Fort, Middle Head

Figure 72: Bush trail, Inner Fort, Middle Head

Figure 73: Overgrown tunnel, Inner Fort, Middle Head

Figure 74: Outside the Cabin, Inner Fort, Middle Head

Figure 75: View inside the Cabin, Inner Fort, Middle Head

Figure 76: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 3

Figure 77: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 3

Figure 78: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 3

Figure 79: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 3

Figure 80: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 3

Figure 81: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 5

Figure 82: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 5

Figure 83: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 5

Figure 84: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 5

Figure 85: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 5

Figure 86: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 12

Figure 87: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 12

Figure 88: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 12

Figure 89: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 12

Figure 90: Screenshot from Notes for Walking (Heyward 2013), Note 12

Figure 91: ELF sound recording by Michael Finucan, Middle Head

Figure 92: Hydrophonic sound recording at Cobblers Beach, Middle Head

Figure 93: iPhone screengrab Notes for Walking, AR mode, the Gate

Figure 94: iPhone screengrab Notes for Walking, AR mode, the Cabin

Figure 95: Promotional image Notes for Walking, Outer Fort

Figure 96: Promotional image Notes for Walking, Outer Fort wide

Figure 97: Notes for Walking iPhone App, Splash screen

Figure 98: Notes for Walking iPhone App, Home screen

Figure 99: Notes for Walking iPhone App, List screen

Figure 100: Notes for Walking iPhone App, AR view

Figure 101: Notes for Walking installation, Mosman Art Gallery, Jan 2013

Figure 102: Notes for Walking installation, Mosman Art Gallery, Jan 2013, alt

Figure 103: Montage image for Notes for Walking Facebook page

Figure 104: Notes for Walking, January 2013, the Gate

Figure 105: Notes for Walking launch, January 2013, Outer Fort

Figure 106: Notes for Walking launch, January 2013, Outer Fort, alt

Figure 107: Notes for Walking launch, January 2013, Outer Fort, alt

Figure 108: Notes for Walking launch, January 2013, Outer Fort, alt

Figure 109: People explore the Inner Fort, Notes for Walking launch

Figure 110: Notes for Walking Inner Fort sign

Figure 111: Exploring the Inner Fort

Figure 112: Exploring the Inner Fort, alt

Figure 113: Exploring the Inner Fort, alt

Figure 114: Approaching The Cabin

Figure 115: People experience Notes for Walking at The Cabin

Figure 116: Megan Heyward and friend experience Notes 11-13 at The Cabin

Figure 117: People experience Notes for Walking at The Cabin

Figure 118: People experience Notes for Walking at The Cabin, alt

Figure 119: Visitors at the Outer Fort, late January 2013

Figure 120: Visitors at the Cabin, late January 2013

Figure 121: Monthly website traffic comparison Dec-Jan, Notes for Walking

Figure 122: Weekly site traffic comparison, Notes for Walking

Figure 123: Facebook Page Insights, Notes for Walking

Figure 124: Audience responses from Twitter, Notes for Walking

Figure 125: Audience responses from Twitter, Notes for Walking, alt

Figure 126: Audience responses from Twitter, Notes for Walking, alt

Figure 127: Audience responses from Twitter, Notes for Walking, alt

Figure 128: Notes for Walking Facebook page with Wordpress and Picasa responses

Figure 129: Notes for Walking Facebook page with Instagram and Tumblr responses

Figure 130: Child with device at Notes for Walking, January 2013

Figure 131: People using their personal devices, Notes for Walking, January 2013

Figure 132: People using various access modes at the Outer Fort

Figure 133: Note 7 playing at the Outer Fort in daylight, Notes for Walking

Figure 134: People experiencing notes 11-13 at The Cabin

Figure 135: Default BuildAR platform appearance

Figure 136: Aggregated Notes for Walking iOS app design screengrabs

Figure 137: Notes for Walking wireframe 1, September 2012

Figure 138: Notes for Walking wireframe 2, showing plans for AR, MAP and List views

Figure 139: Notes for Walking wireframe 3, Notes for Walking wireframe 3, showing POI's, video and Facebook functionality

Figure 140: Sydney Festival 2013 official website page for Notes for Walking

Figure 141: Sydney Morning Herald feature article "*Middle Head as you've never heard it*"

Figure 142: Sydney Morning Herald "*Best of the Festival*" feature article

Figure 143: Time Out National "*Around Town summer highlights*" magazine article

Figure 144: Mosman Daily "*Visitors Happy With App*" newspaper article