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Abstract

Sensuous emotion talk, hypnotic images and flowing visuality in the communally produced video art work *Possible worlds*

The article examines the communally and interculturally constructed video work *Possible worlds* (Mäkiranta & Escudeiro 2015) in terms of its affective dimensions and arts-policy meanings. The video work consists of seven episodes relating to the living environments of young women residing in different parts of Europe. The study is situated in part among the theorising on the affects, the experiential and the sensuous that emerged in the social sciences and humanities in the 1990s. A major theoretical-methodological inspiration for the article comes also from scholars who have developed artistic research and 'new'-materialist thought. The focus is on perspectives that take account of the material, process-oriented and affective nature of reality.

The article reflects on the idea of sense of place and on perceiving the relations of a space through the vehicle of the video work, which is shaped by textures, atmospheres and rhythmic elements. The aim is to demonstrate how *Possible worlds* may reveal new ways of understanding the human attachment to place and the interrelations between place and body. The article presents, first of all, communal, intercultural and affective art as a site where young women may act to reshape both the content and working methods used in contemporary art. Secondly, the article seeks to show the arts-policy potential of the video work in dislodging entrenched attitudes that would reject emotion talk and consign it to the fringes as culturally non-rational. When what has been rejected is returned to centre stage, its unleashed potential may uncover previously hidden or new kinds of knowledge of living environments and urban space. Thirdly, the article proposes that the video work and the process of producing it may further one's apprehension of the hidden or unrecognised material-discursive states related to e.g. the hypnotic, embodied and streaming qualities of urban space. The issue is one of challenging long entrenched bulwarks and representations of urban space.

Keywords: art-based research; affect; communal art; 'new-materialism'; young people; interculturalism; gender