

Identity



Introduction

Imagine that you and I are standing at opposite sides of a room / street / city / country / continent / planet. I may confidently declare that I am here and you are there. You may claim exactly the same thing, even although your here is my there and vice versa.

Yet there is no inherently existing here or there for either of us. My here exists only in relation to you, and your here exists only in relation to me. Nevertheless, we are both spatially accurate in the context of our individual experiences.

It would certainly be a mistake for either of us to assert that our here does not exist at all; nonetheless it might be helpful to acknowledge that each of our heres exists only in dependence on the other.

Similarly, the individual and collective *Identities* we inhabit persist only in relation to the reciprocity of our perceptions. While there is little doubt that I exist and you exist as living entities; it can be compellingly argued that in many important respects I only exist **because** you exist.

The Project

The *Identity* project sets out to observe how adopted modalities of personal *Identity* metamorphose amidst the velocity of accelerating change in two global cities over the last 25 years.

Work already under way consists of still and moving-image artworks based on embodied narratives of connected isolation in two culturally mixed but starkly contrasting cities - Singapore and London. The work draws on the specificities of each city and contrasts differences as well as similarities between the two.

The theme of *Identity* is intentionally broad at the outset in order to precipitate tangential perspectives.

Who is involved ?

At present:

Goldsmiths MA Filmmaking Convener, Gerry McCulloch
Head of the Puttnam School of Film at Lasalle, Gisli Snaer Erlingson

Eventually:

Practice staff from all departments in the Goldsmiths-Lasalle partnership

What does the project entail ?

Initially, Gisli and Gerry plan to cast subjects (possibly 12 non-native citizens from each city) and create photographic still and moving-image artworks based on individual testimonies. The nature of the theme is broad enough to encompass diverse critical and creative approaches to the notion of *Identity* from a spectrum of practitioners / disciplines over time.

Gisli's take on *Identity* feeds into his feature film project in development - *The Accordionist*: <http://www.darshanaphotoart.co.uk/accordionist.pdf> and Gerry is collating a gallery of still image portraits on the theme of *Identity* at: <http://www.darshanaphotoart.co.uk/identity> These are very much preliminary reference points for now, while we develop the substance of the long-term project.

What are the outcomes ?

Two exhibitions – one in Singapore and one in London (possibly in the new Goldsmiths Gallery?).

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