Grateful thank you and acknowledgement to
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Alana Mandryk Administrator
Alison McDonald Gallery Officer
Cleve McGuane Husband

James Cook University
An exhibition of work as partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Visual Arts JCU

http://www.annelord.com

wire shadow
digital image incorporating wire, graphite drawing and evening shadow

Tools of Change
Anne Lord
16 February – 18 March 2007

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts
482 Flinders Street West
Townsville QLD 4810
Tools of Change
February 2007 Artist's Statement

This exhibition is the third in a series of four about states of change. The early drawings for this exhibition are made simply with graphite in an investigation into objects that can inspire concepts about change. The objects or tools that have wood in them show relatively quick changes over time but the tools that have metal components show a weathering of material indicating a much longer time span for corrosion and integration into the surrounding environment.

The process of moving from one state to another is important for the concepts being developed. Through the tools are old and may belong to a different era of pre-power tools, they are indicative of the past and the future. The weathering visible in these tools could similarly be seen in any object we cherish. The old and neglected becomes beautiful as an icon of age and time, but it is also at risk of disappearing and never being seen or used again, in its present form.

Many images in this installation are just drawings, and in learning from Henri Magritte's images (1923) and Michel Foucault's words (1982) they are not what they seem. Foucault (1982), Magritte (1923), W J T Mitchell (1994) and James Elkins (2000) discuss the potential for text and image to be integral to the reproduction of ideas. I investigate the development of a position from twentieth century images and writings to recent arguments by Kim Macloon (2006) for ephemeral and Internet art, Martha Buskirk (2005) for the contingent object in contemporary art, Gay Hawkins (2006) for 'the ethics of waste' and asking questions beyond recycling.

A question, then, for many of us might be, what is important, what can be saved, recycled, neglected and 'replaced'? The bigger question in the twenty-first century is how and where will I place the object after I have finished with it?

The development to create art with a message is part of my quest to relate instruments and ideas as part of a discourse in visual and creative arts. Work about changing states with a concern for environmental issues is the creative and conceptual rationale for installation work in Tools of Change at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts. Discussions with supervisors throw up important issues: Linda Ashton's Poststructuralist perspective and application of binaries, Ross Gibson's 'the idea of fragility, ephemera in long deep time' and reference to the Japanese concept Wabi-Sabi, acceptance of beauty in transience, Thai, Chinese and Indian Buddhist philosophy and religion revere the transient nature of things and impermanence.

Anne Lord
Visual Artist, Lecturer School of Creative Arts, PhD candidate JCU.
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Access Space and Vault Installation
Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts 482 Flinders St Townsville Q 4810
www.umbrella.org.au
7.00pm Opening by Dr Linda Ashton Senior Lecturer Visual Art School of Education JCU
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