

CRASH

(AND OTHER EARTHLY PLEASURES)

Public Programs 12 February – 29 March 2006

1 pm Sunday 12 February **Artist's Talk**

Dr. Dennis Del Favero — *Nachtraglichkeit: An aesthetics of trauma*

Pierre Janet coined the classic formulation of trauma when he argued that in the normal course of events, experiences are processed through cognitive schemes that enable them to be recognised and assimilated to narrative. Memory is thereby constituted as an experience that is transformed into a representation. Trauma, however, resists such processing. Trauma, argued Janet, is not so much *remembered* as subject to unconscious and uncontrolled repetition. If trauma is so opposed to representation let alone narrative, then serious questions are raised for aesthetics and experimental art. How can we aesthetically express the experience of trauma when what characterises that experience is its anti-representational nature? This lecture will investigate some of these issues in relation to a series of interactive multi-media works undertaken by Dennis Del Favero between 1999 and 2004. Del Favero is a Sydney based artist. He is Executive Chairman of the iCINEMA Centre for Interactive Cinema Research at UNSW. <http://www.icinema.unsw.edu.au>. His DVD-Rom *Deep Sleep* (2004) is part of the exhibition 'CRASH'.

1 pm Friday 17 February **Dr. Pippa Tandy** — *J.G. Ballard: Cars, war, text and images*

To drive is to connect with a complex system—the broader technological landscape of the modern world. For British writer J.G. Ballard, driving is the activity that most emphatically constitutes the modern subject and his scientific method investigates the car as though it were the drosophila of the technological kingdom. It has entered all aspects of our quotidian lives, from the trivial to the most dramatic. It is a key to memory, desire, death and sex. Images that connect the iconography of the Cold War to extracts from Ballard's writing will provide a visual ground for this talk. It will investigate Ballard's representation of the car as exemplar of technology's impact on humanity, the architectonics of its material presence, and the ways in which his mental landscapes reveal a correspondence between the landscape of the motorway and the 'dark causeways of our spinal columns'. Pippa Tandy is Head of English at Perth College, WA. She has a particular research interest in the Cold War and its technologies, and in the writing of J.G. Ballard.

1 pm Friday 3 March **Tama Leaver** — *Terminal Masculinities*

Ideas of technology, subjectivity and the body have always had points of intersection, but these connections have become increasingly visible across the last few decades. Feminist scholar Donna Haraway famously argued that the figure of the cyborg could embrace and enact a feminist politics by destabilising the coherence of 'the subject' and blur the line between person and machine. In Hollywood cinema, however, Arnold Schwarzenegger's cybernetic terminator initially appears singularly inappropriate to act as a feminist icon! Tama will engage with ideas of cyberculture using the figure of the terminator to consider shifting ideas of masculinity in both cinematic and other digital forms. Tama Leaver's recently submitted doctoral thesis is entitled 'Artificialities: From Artificial Intelligence to Artificial Culture—Subjectivity, Embodiment and Technology in Contemporary Speculative Texts'. He is a lecturer at the centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at UWA.

1 pm Friday 17 March **Janice Baker** — *CRASH (and other earthly pleasures)*

Janice is curator of 'CRASH'. In discussing the exhibition she considers art that offers affective experience to challenge celebratory fictions, whether idealised forms of the human body, or war. Janice is Curator (Public Programs) at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

All talks and lectures are free

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Hours: 11 am-5 pm Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon to 5 pm Sunday