

Professor Andrea Liggins

Professor of Photography; Dean of Faculty Art and Design
University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Research Groups: Creative Industries Research and Innovation Centre;
The Centre for Lens Arts and Science Interaction

Evidence Portfolio: *Uncertain Terrain – the Garden*

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Author: Liggins, Andrea

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Location / Venue(s): Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur Arts Centre, Jaipur, India 2013

Media: Photographic prints

Number of Works: 38



Research Context

This research through photographic practice explores alternative ways of engaging with landscapes and gardens to engender a greater sense of personal association and involvement with these spaces. The work recognises a gendered perspective as a means of challenging the patriarchal and cultural norm of the 'valued' view. Liggins' previous practice has been rooted within familiar regional locations, but this body of photographic practice extends beyond Wales, to sites and spaces that are not only unfamiliar but in some cases are alien and conceptually inaccessible. Many photographs for *Uncertain Terrain — the Garden* were produced in the centre and suburbs of capital cities including Moscow, Oslo and Paris, as well as in the South of France and in both private and public gardens.

Research Imperatives

The focus for this project was the representation of individual, personal and sensory responses to enclosed garden spaces, where rather than creating descriptive images, Liggins' aim is to immerse the viewer within the space, and to provide a more immediate and intimate suggestion of the location.



Bristol 2011



Brussels 2011

Project Methods

Liggins used lightweight cameras with plastic lenses and low image resolution to minimise the sense of formality typically associated with garden photography, where the production of maximum detail is of paramount importance. Using the photographic Baroque aesthetic, which celebrates the confusion and unpredictability of vision, as a compositional device, her images are an attempt to capture the 'otherworld' qualities of the sites visited. The photographs represented a personal reality and view of the gardens.

Outcomes and Dissemination

This body of works were exhibited at:

- Jaipur International Photography Exhibition, Chaturdik Art Gallery, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, India, 14th -17th April 2013 in a joint exhibition with artist Sarah Tierney
- The Gallery, British Council, Delhi, India, 3rd – 12th May 2013 and further venues are pending

The preparatory stage of the research was tested in the group exhibition *Unreliable Truths* at the Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, Wales, 27th – 30th November 2008 and was featured in the accompanying catalogue Cocks M. and Evans J. P. (2008) *Unreliable Truths Swansea: Glynn Vivian Gallery*. ISBN 978-0-903189-78-1. The exhibition was disseminated by means of a symposium and public lectures.

Reviews

'Uncertain Terrain – The Garden', *Culture Colony Quarterly* (CCQ) Issue 1, Autumn 2013, interview by Ric Bower

CCQ Features
Andrea Liggins and Sarah Tierney
Uncertain Terrain – The Garden

Uncertain Terrain – The Garden

As part of an exhibition tour in India, Andrea Liggins and Sarah Tierney St Davids, University of Wales Trinity St Davids, Jaipur Art Centre. Professor Liggins talked to us about the liberating power of photography, sharing an aesthetic and the challenges of long distance framing.

Interview & portrait: Ric Bower

Uncertain Terrain – The Garden was an exhibition of landscape photography by Andrea Liggins and Sarah Tierney, shown at The Jaipur Art Centre and The Gallery, British Council India on the weekend of 2013. It continues to tour. A selection of images are shown on the following pages.

My prints were 21" squares with a considerable white surround so, to save on shipping costs we sent the prints on ahead of us to be framed locally. When we arrived in Jaipur Art Centre I noticed that I was ten images down. I eventually found the missing work leaning on the wall on the opposite side of the gallery. They'd been heavily cropped to fit some oblong frames that had been sourced for the exhibition and I had walked right by them without even recognising them. There was no way of reprinting them over there in the time, so we took a gamble and instructed the framer to crop the unframed prints further, bringing them back to square. Strangely the images didn't seem to suffer from their involuntary slimming regime, once they had been returned to their natural format. It seemed that the images required the rigidity of the square to remain legible, to prevent them from being too chaotic. In a strange way the experience was an affirmation of the unconventional approach I had been pursuing.

My work is not aspiring towards representation. In the traditional sense, where the frame assumes the role of a 'window onto another world', instead my image frame acts as a robust box to contain a smorgasbord of visual clues and impressions, that have as much to do with what is outside the literal field of view, as they have to do with that which is actually caught up within it. I am not, of course, the first artist to be thinking in this way. From early 20th century impressionism, through to the all-immersive experience of first person shooter video games, this approach boasts a rich heritage. It's a heritage within landscape photography that has been browbeaten, however, by a 300 year old hegemony of Cartesian perspectival thinking and all of the fixed viewpoint, Enlightenment baggage that brings with it. I realised that there is simply no such thing as a true objective viewpoint. My work is deliberately further contained within the boundaries of the domestic garden rather than the broader landscape as a whole. I could never separate myself from the environment in which I

work. So I try to create landscapes to look out from, rather than a landscape to look out at.

Sarah and I conducted workshops in India, whilst the exhibition was on in the art centre's lovely grounds. We started with 20 students and by the last day, rather wonderfully, the number had risen to 80. We challenged the students to take pictures as though they were a boy, a shaka, or a dog, or even a small child. Many of them, although the approach was new to them, with just a small amount of encouragement, really took to it. At the time we didn't realise that most of the students were from privileged backgrounds. Unfortunately one would have been unlikely to have had people from the bottom of the social hierarchy on a course such as this, held as it was, in an art gallery. There was a young man who himself, who had decided to lose a year out to work with technologically challenged individuals, (within the context of the caste system, being underprivileged is not a coherent concept). He intended to take what he had learned with us to use in the photography workshops he was running. It was very exciting to me that, through him, the aesthetic we were exploring and inviting others to explore would be reaching a state deeper into the rich complexity of Indian culture through one of our participants.

I have been involved in photography for a long time now and what continually draws me back to it is its relatively democratic character. Perhaps because it is all pervasive, it is everything to everyone it contains within it the capacity to give a voice to those who have been silenced. I love how photography empowers people both to experience the world and to examine themselves. I talked to the Indian students about photography not needing to be like a window, a dry, descriptive report but it could instead be a process of poetic questioning.

I am very interested in how 18th century picturesque aesthetics, which we have, for the most part, accepted as the 'correct' way in which to appreciate and represent, landscapes and how that in turn, it has dictated how we bestow value

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An Independent Perspective on the Arts

on our contemporary environment. Aesthetic values become very real when we're considering where to place our next wind farm for instance. I guess this has made me interested in working with artists that do not typically adhere to the picturesque stereotypes – forward peep boogie, or the hedge at the bottom of my road for example. I wondered how photography could be used to challenge this aesthetic hierarchy. Garden plays has had its thinking set in traditional viewpoints is generally considered that of the male gaze. I would argue that women have always been fixed and intimately connected with their gardens. One of my earlier exhibitions was entitled *The Garden Took*. I didn't leave far from the late or path to take my photographs.

I'm a relatively divided person for someone that I view the aesthetic, landscape, as perfect, reflective and useful. In the context of the environment, landscape photography has become a more time-consuming activity. How do you find the camera, the lens and the place? I have been thinking about the concept of form and movement, as human beings, placed on landscape and our environment. We have had a long time in the last 20 years, to go round the world most times. We've also lost 95% of our land area from this is ongoing and I feel that my visual aesthetic should be to engage with some of it. I think the opportunity exists to show how we are a planetary mammal.

Although it's not the goal, to really 'look' at the landscape, I think it's a good idea to have a messy one. I think it's a good idea to have a messy one. I think it's a good idea to have a messy one. I think it's a good idea to have a messy one. I think it's a good idea to have a messy one.

I am fascinated by the possibility of the captured these scenes in the midst of some people's domesticity in the future, whether from a place in Bangalore. It's all interesting to me. —CCQ

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NEWSBYTES

Technokriti –2013 at SIIT

Sine International Institute of Technology,Jaipur organized a third National level Annual Techno Cultural Fest "Technokriti 2013" in their campus near Sanganer,Jaipur in which more than 300 students from different engineering colleges participated.The fest was graced by the Cabinet Minister for Industries, Government of Rajasthan Rajendra Pareek as the Chief Guest,Ganga Devi M.L.A,Bagru as Guest of Honor,Prof.Sandeep Sancheti,Vice Chancellor,Manipal University,Jaipur as the special guest,Ganesh Singh Githala,Chairman,SIIT and Sandeep Kulhari,Director,SIIT.

Jaipur Talks hosts Arefa Tehsin

The Happy Store and the BAG store under their joint initiative –'Jaipur Talks' hosted an evening with author and wildlife warden of Udaipur –Arefa Tehsin.The Talk was attended by over 50 children and their parents who were really excited to learn about snakes,wild boars,tigers,birds and many stories from jungles.The talk was followed by an interactive Q&A session.Jaipur Talks is an initiative to get people together and engage them in a healthy discussion around a book review or an expert talk or screening of a documentary.The BAG Library Store is a unique store,which has a book and a toy library with over 8000 books for all ages and over 500 toys and games.

Harmony joins hands with eloquence

The budding artists of Soul of Symphony enthralled their audience at the Maharana Pratap Auditorium at their annual concert 'Harmony VII'.The Musical fiesta was significant for more reasons than one as the Soul of Symphony has enlarged its curriculum to include Rock & Pop and Speech and Communication Skills under the banner of Trinity College London.Prof Suman Yadav former Dean and Head,Dept of Music,University of Rajasthan was the Chief Guest for the evening.The event was also attended by the North India Head of Trinity College London.Anjali Mata represented the Trinity College London during the adoption of the syllabi of Rock and Pop and Speech and Communication Skills.

Cultural fest at JECRC University

JECRC University will organize its three day cultural fest "Udaan –The Flight of Imagination –2013" from April 25 –27 at the University Campus.There will be fourteen cultural events to nurture various talents amongst students of several colleges,recognized Institutions and Universities.Many attractive prizes (Cash,Certificates and Medals) will be given for best performances.The main attraction of the event is the debate competition,which includes writing of an essay and a debate with first prize of rupees five lakh and two consolation prizes of rupees thirty thousand and twenty thousand respectively.A large number of participants are expected to attend this grand event.

Photography workshop

ARCH Academy of Design organized a workshop for students of all guilds on photography.Prof.Andrea Liggins and Prof.Sarah Tierney were the main speakers.Prof.Andrea Liggins,Dean of Faculty of Art and Design holds a PhD in Photography and Landscape 2005 and has achieved a Personal Chair in Photographic Studies in 2007.500 students participated in the exhibition where only 153 students were selected by experts.21 ARCH students are also among the talented group.

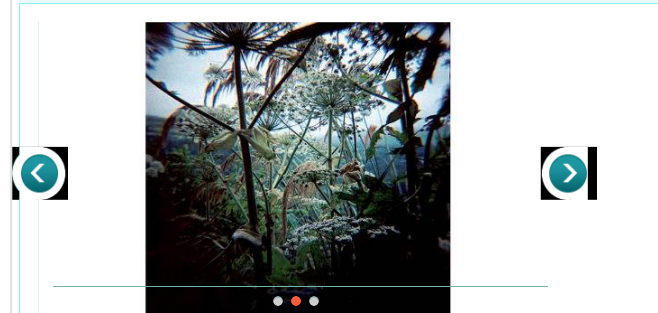
Cultural celebrations at NK Public school

Gangaur and Baisakhi were celebrated in NK Public School,Murlipura with great enthusiasm in the school auditorium.Students from Nursery to first standard put on Gaudi Dress and resembled the symbols of Iskar and Gangaur.A beautiful cultural programme was also presented by the students on the occasion.Dr.NC Lunayach,Managing Director,NK Shikshan Sankul addressed the audience and said,"These festivals are symbols of enthusiasm and prosperity."He showered his blessings to all on this occasion.

Uncertain Terrain – the Garden | British Council

Sunday, May 12 2013, 10:55 AM

Uncertain Terrain – the Garden



May 2013 10:00 – Thu 16 May 2013 19:00

Uncertain Terrain – the Garden, New Delhi

At Queen's Gallery
British Council Division

17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi –110001

Closed on Sundays
Entry: Open to all

This exhibition brings together the work of two photographic artists working in Wales; both artists have focussed upon the 'garden' as a space, a site of exploration, a metaphor, a place of inspiration, a point in time, a process and a vehicle for their work.

Prof. Andrea Liggins "An exhibition of photographs that explore the edges, forgotten and untended parts of gardens, which is part of ongoing environmental photographic work. My PhD research investigated new ways of photographing the landscape to promote the forgotten and overlooked parts of our landscape that are often important for environmental reasons. I have undertaken several projects on this theme including working with scientists on the Barcode Wales project and exhibiting the resultant photographs at the Nanshan Botanic Gardens in Chongqing. A previous project took me to Moscow as an artist in residence to take the concept and practice of this research into a city. The exhibition is a selection of work from the past 3 years together with new work made specifically for the show."

Sarah Tierney "The gardens I have returned to over many years once belonged to members of my family who are longer of this world; these domestic gardens that I once played in, now exist as distant memories, the place somewhere else and something else. I place my pinhole camera in these very gardens that now belong to new owners and capture these spaces with very long exposures. I use a

जाना युवा फोटोग्राफर्स ने



जेकेके ने रोमागर को आयोजित फोटोग्राफरी कक्षाओं में जल्दवर्ती बने एक सदस्य।

फोटोग्राफी वर्कशॉप

सिटी रिपोर्टर फोटोग्राफी में कैमरा बड़ा या छोटा नहीं होगा। फोटोग्राफर का संस और फोटो लेने का तरीका बड़ा होता है। उसी पर फोटो की सफलता और विफलता निर्भर करती है। कुछ ऐसे ही फोटोग्राफरी के टिप्स एक्सपर्ट्स ने युवा फोटोग्राफर्स को समझाए। अक्सर रात रोमांट डीनर्स एजुकेशनल सोसायटी और मेट्रोपोलिटन यूनिवर्सिटी की ओर से नकारा कला केंद्र में आयोजित फोटोग्राफी से संबंधित वर्कशॉप में मेट्रोपोलिटन यूनिवर्सिटी के वर्युके को फेमस फोटोग्राफर प्रो. एंड्रिया लिगिन्स

और सारा टिपिने ने फोटोग्राफी की बारीकियां समझाईं। कार्यक्रम के चीफ गेस्ट स्विडिश राजस्थानी राजकुमार शर्मा रहे। वहीं जेकेके के चतुर्थिक अट गैलरी में चल रही जयपुर इंटरनेशनल फोटोग्राफी एजोबिशन-2013 में रोमागर को सैकड़ों फोटो प्रेमियों ने खिजाट किया।

एजोबिशन में रोमागरों के लाइफ से जुड़े 200 से ज्यादा फोटोग्राफ्स डिस्ले किए गए हैं। एजोबिशन की खास बात यह रही कि इन 200 फोटो में से 150 फोटो जयपुर के से कर्तिका स्टूडेंट्स द्वारा खींचे गए हैं। जिसमें जयपुर के लेक्चरर और प्रवर्धन स्थलों को भी बताना पड़ा है।

स्कूल व कॉलेजों के शौकिया फोटोग्राफर्स का दिखा हुनर



जवाहर कला केंद्र को चतुर्थिक कक्षा में शौकिया फोटोग्राफर्स के अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर का प्रदर्शन करने का अवसर मिला। इसके लिए युवा और सारा शर्मा के प्रवर्धन और कॉलेजों में छात्रा गये फोटोग्राफर्स की फोटो प्रदर्शन कर उनमें से चर्चित 100 फोटोग्राफर्स की कला को प्रदर्शनी की ओर से आयोजित फोटोग्राफी एजोबिशन का। शारदा सहज 'जेकेके' और राजस्थान लेक्चर कला अकादमी प्रो. शारदा शर्मा ने प्रदर्शनी का प्रवर्धन किया।

इसमें प्रसिद्ध फोटोग्राफर वर्यु लिगिन्स और सारा टिपिने की फोटोग्राफी कला का प्रदर्शन किया गया है। इस एजोबिशन में युवा फोटोग्राफर्स का प्रदर्शन करने वाले सभी प्रदर्शकों के फोटोग्राफर्स का प्रदर्शन किया गया है।

दंपति ने बनाया अनोखा रिकॉर्ड

तबू का इस्तेमाल

'गारिस' में तबू ने यादगार परफॉरमेंस दिया। 'विद्युत' में तबू ने यादगार परफॉरमेंस दिया। 'विद्युत' में तबू ने यादगार परफॉरमेंस दिया।

सालाना जलसा

सिटी रिपोर्टर, जयपुर

संस्कार नकाला गई। गणगीर पूजन 16 दिन तक चलता है।

तस्वीरों से झांकेगी जयपुर की विरासत

सिटी रिपोर्टर, जयपुर की विरासत याद आने वाले टुरिस्ट को काफी लुभाती है। इसी विरासत को लोभाक एक्सपोजर देने के उद्देश्य से सितंबर से इंटरनेशनल फोटोग्राफी एजोबिशन का आयोजन किया जाएगा। एजोबिशन चतुर्थिक अट गैलरी में लगेगी। स्वामी एजुकेशनल सोसायटी (आर) के संयुक्त तलाकषण में होने वाली यह एजोबिशन स्टूडियो बिग बोस के सहयोग से आयोजित की जाएगी। प्रदर्शनी में राज्य के दो सौ स्टूडेंट्स के साथ स्वामी मेट्रोपोलिटन यूनिवर्सिटी वेल्स की फोटोग्राफर्स प्रो.एंड्रिया लिगिन्स और सारा टिपिने के फोटोग्राफ भी प्रदर्शित किए जाएंगे। एंड्रिया का कहना है, मैं हमेशा साधारण कैमरे से ही फोटोग्राफ लेना पसंद करती हूँ। सांसद महेश जोशी ने बताया कि स्टूडेंट्स को प्रतिभा को एक्सपोजर देने के लिए फोटोग्राफी एजोबिशन का आयोजन किया जाएगा। साथ ही पत्रकारिता यूनिवर्सिटी को भी यह प्रस्ताव दिया जाएगा कि वह फोटोग्राफी से संबंधित अलग से एक डिपार्टमेंट बनाए। ताकि इस फोल्ड में रच रहे खने वालों को और भी बढ़ावा मिल सके। वहीं आरके मंडर अजय



प्रो.एंड्रिया लिगिन्स और सारा टिपिने।

शर्मा ने कहा, यह प्रदर्शनी दिल्ली में भी लगाई जाएगी। साथ ही आने वाले समय में इसे युके भी ले जाने की योजना है। साथ ही स्टूडेंट्स के लिए अब समय-समय पर वर्कशॉप का आयोजन होगा।

होगा एजोबिशन में : फोटोग्राफी एजोबिशन लगाना दो सौ स्टूडेंट्स के जयपुर की विरासत को लेकर अलग-अलग तरह के फोटोग्राफ शामिल किए जाएंगे। इसके साथ ही फ्रंट के दो स्टूडेंट्स भी इस एजोबिशन में हिस्सा लेंगे।

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

International photographers in Jaipur

Mahesh Joshi and Lalit K Panwar viewing the photos exhibited at JKK

David U.K are the renowned photographers and main exhibitors. They have delivered the lectures also. The exhibited photographs are related to daily routine. Out of 200 photographs 150 are clicked by the college students that covered every location of Jaipur. The exhibition was inaugurated by MP Mahesh Joshi, President of Lalit Kala Academy Prof Bhawani Shankar Sharma and Chairman and M.D. of I.T.D.C. Lalit K Panwar. The exhibition is getting wide publicity and appreciation from the viewers and critics. Selected exhibitors will get the opportunity to participate in forth coming UK exhibition.

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'Andrea Liggins' recent work, snapshots made with mobile phones and disposable cameras, explores the construction of 'the look' of the more traditional camera and consequent ways of seeing. The affects of pictorial framing come under scrutiny as domestic digital cameras downplay the aesthetic conventions and technical sophistication of larger formats. How we look and what we see are in question as the snapshot informality, limited depth of field and consequent priority of content over form interrupt accustomed viewing experiences...Liggins is interested in countering legacies of Romanticism and Cartesian objectification of nature, suggesting more intimate encounters within rural and semi-rural environments, including explicitly organised spaces such as parks and gardens.'

Wells, L. (2011) *Land Matters: Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity* London: I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd

Preparatory works exhibited at *Unreliable Truths*, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 2008



Unreliable Truths, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 2008



Catalogue, *Unreliable Truths*



Installation view, *Unreliable Truths*



Unreliable Truths symposium, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 2008