

Qualia | 2022

Qualia by **Meera + pdot** is an exhibition that examines the phenomenological conception of 'qualia' which is defined as sensations that our subconscious cannot define other than through the experience of that feeling itself. The combination of film, art and phenomena provokes the viewer's senses, and interprets the notions of the subconscious upon the viewer's experience of it.

Gallery25

Opening Event: 7 Sept 5pm - 7pm

To be officially opened by Associate Professor **Lyndall ADAMS**

Exhibition dates: 8 Sept - 6 Oct 2022

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm

Building 10, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

ECU Galleries acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and elders past, present and emerging. We pay our respects for the great privilege of living, making and researching on these unceded lands.

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Artist Statement

This exhibition is an exploration of the phenomenological conception of *qualia*, which is defined as sensations that our subconscious cannot define other than through the experience of that feeling itself, for instance the experience of seeing the redness of a sky, or knowing the softness of a rose. Such phenomena is defined by the experience of the viewer, and thus the combination of film, art and phenomena provokes the viewer's senses, and interprets the notions of the subconscious upon the viewer's experience of it. The true nature of qualia is intrinsic, as explicated by C.I Lewis, and therefore the non-representational experience of such phenomena cannot be described nor defined, only elicited upon the sensation itself. The main focus of this exhibition is to combine this philosophical concept of the subconscious with sensorial praxis, to emulate and lead the viewer on an immersive and qualitative experience of their subconscious. Sensory film is an experience in itself, as conceptualised by Sarah Pink, through the interplay of senses and visuals where the two provoke sensations such as nostalgia, memory, warmth, unease, in the viewer. In this exhibition we aim to both create and define the viewers intrinsic sensations and feelings through the layers of visceral experience by film, sound, and physical art.

Visions of Qualia is a split screen film that is an encapsulation of phenomena through experimental visuals. The parallel of two screens mimics the two eyes of the viewer, where each eye is viewing a different, but unchanging visual. The method of sensorial praxis has been approached in rethinking visual mediums by recognising the sensorial to create visceral experiences that can be best expressed in practice, through the usage of Isadora live-mapping software and microscopic film to manipulate visually similar imagery. The dimensional layering of such editing, show that the phenomena, as seen through a multisensorial medium, can be provoked by, yet not reducible to the visual. The soundscape has been designed to not only create an immersive space but one that also experiments with left and right channels to enhance the experience, and heightens the viewers inverted experience through 8D manipulation.

The *Ocean Flux* films are manipulated visualisations of the ocean in different colours. The deconstruction of raw imagery echoes the purge and tide of neo-dada and flux, hence reflecting the nature of distorted sensations. The gap between our intrinsic experiences and what we know of them is scattered, and often fragmented. This piece encompasses this notion through temporal image operation, leading the viewer back to the archetypes and core of the mind, a concept defined by Henry Corbin. The phenomena of being drawn into the ocean is just as much real as our serendipitous senses tell us that we are being fluxed away. The physical aspect of this piece allows the viewer to not only be a part of the visual experience, but also the phenomenal experience of the concept.

The printed works are an echo of transcendental feelings neither known or unknown to us, hence conceptualising the notion of reversion through likeness, that is the interplay of both the conscious and unconscious through the interdisciplinary hybrid of sensory art and phenomenology; both questioning and enlightening the viewer on what they truly know of their subconscious mind.

Artist Bios

Meera (*United Kingdom*)

Meera is a filmmaker, lecturer and emerging artist with a passion for using film as both a documentary medium and experimental approach. Her documentary films aim to create an impact on society by portraying voiceless communities through the lens of cinema vérité and combining this with an ethno-sensory approach in hope to capture the pure truth. Her art is created using various platforms and interactive software to create works that immerse the audience in feelings, spaces and perceptions.

Meera is a Senior Film Lecturer at St Marys University and Coventry University with 5+ years of experience in teaching immersive practice, documentary cinema, experimental praxis and digital media.

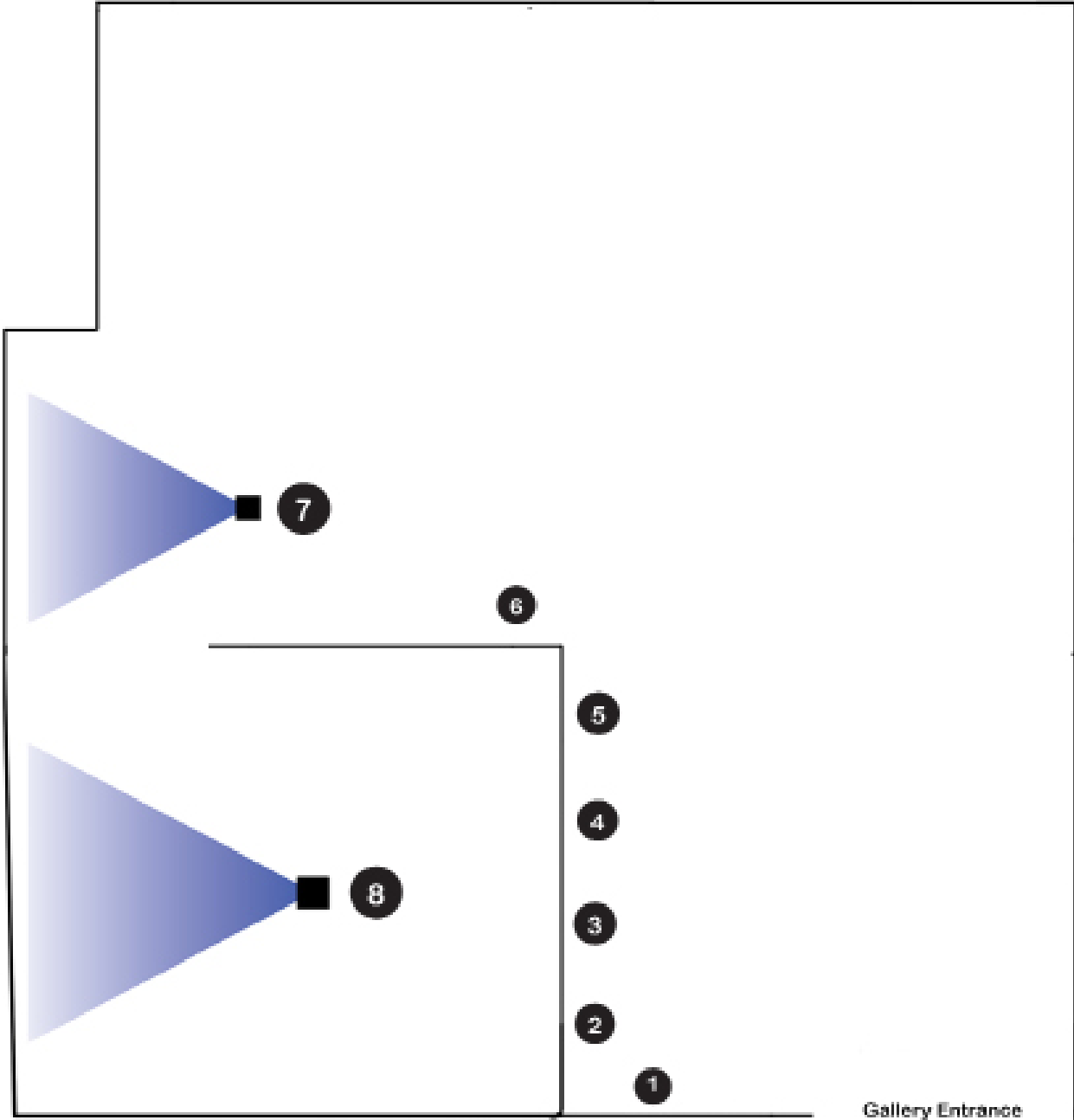
pdot (*United Kingdom*)

pdot is a writer, philosopher and emerging artist using focused research in phenomenology, the sensorial experience and existentialism to create experimental physical and digital art. Exploring inner consciousness, dreams and the mind and expressing these themes through immersive and sensory experiences, pdot is interested in hybrid practice such as using interactive receptive software and combining with reconstructed and layered imagery, visuals, prints and bricolage as a medium to create repurposed dimensions to art.

Meera + pdot

Art is not what it is but what it does. Our art is a phenomenological visualisation, an experience, feeling, an escape. It is to see and be seen. It is an echo of the dada, neo-dada and fluxus movements, resisting the conventional mannerisms, through mediums, like installations, mixed media, curatorial, film, photography, prints, and sound to show that art is not singular nor confined. Splicing together experimental visuals and soundscapes creates immersive sensorial experiences. The piece looks at the viewer as the viewer looks at the piece. Through this abstract and visually experimental medium, we can express what could not be understood otherwise, and take the viewer on an immersive journey. As two young women of colour we aim to create art that breaks conventions and resists society.

Instagram: @frag.ments.art



- 1 pdot, **Cirrus**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas work, 42 x 59.4cm
- 2 pdot, **Sd_3**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas, 42 x 59.4cm
- 3 pdot, **Raw feels**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas, 42 x 59.4cm
- 4 pdot, **Wasteland**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas, 42 x 59.4cm
- 5 pdot, **Dupes_3**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas work, 42 x 59.4cm
- 6 pdot, **Dupes_2**, 2020–22, digital print reproduction of original mixed media on canvas work, 42 x 59.4cm
- 7 Meera and pdot, **Ocean flux films**, 2020, experimental film, 3:00 mins
- 8 Meera and pdot, **Visions of Qualia**, 2020, experimental film, 8:00 mins