Representation of Other

Sarah-Jane Field, July 2017
OCA Self & Other
Assignment One

Create a short series of environmental portraits of people in places that provide the context for us to understand them. Pose and details are important.

Sarah-Jane Field
512666
July 2017
People think of themselves too much as one person. They don’t know what to do with the other people who come into their heads.

Mark E Smith
Renegade, 2008
Contents
Introduction

"Self and other give birth to each other...beyond seperation one is always subscribed in the other...", VA Conley explains as she discusses langage, relationship and power in Hélène Cixous' writing (1984:32). The portraits in this series are of people who make work which represents others. Each artist, performative or visual, was given the same 6 descriptions of real people gleaned from an anonymous survey on Facebook. Every artist worked with me, to a greater or lesser extent, in realising the final photograph. Descriptions are recognised by their sequential survey number and the signs, or words, they chose to create thier anonymous written personas. This work is as much about imagery as it is about words."By destabilising the text" and I do mean all texts in the semiotic sense, "[Robert Wilson] destablishe the concept of self, closely bound up with language". (Holmberg, 1963:63). The nature of how these images were made is as much a part of thier story as the narratives contained within.

Sarah-Jane Field

Collaborating Artists

Lottie Ellis
Melanie Ingram
Trudi Jackson
Niall McNamee
Stefan Schaffeld

86 anonymous survey respondants
Ink drawings by Lottie Ellis
Sketches by Stefan Schaffeld
#27 Describes gende as other, Nordic, lives in a hill, in the woods, between the sea and the suburb, struggling and fat, lives in an old fashioned home that looks like a museum, which feels good, signified by a tall walking stick, wishes could tolerate ordinary people more

#34 Female, English, lives in Kent, sticks to monochrome, high heeled stilettos, feels and affinity with industrial chrome and steel, Home is a modern 3-bed, made to look like a barn, decorated in industrial style, sleek modern furniture, grew up in France, has experienced devastating grief

#50 Male, British, lives in London, owns a comfortable Victorian home, which he loves, wears a cardigan, which he fiddles with as he did when he was a child with his comfort blanket, knows her's very lucky and tries hard not to 'be a dick'
#61 Male, British, lives in Nottingham, feels he is signified best by a work trousers, was changed deeply by death of best friend when he was 18 and grandmother within a few days of each other, adult but wears superhero PJs. Ideal self and international playboy, garden designer

#82 Female, Arab, French but lives in London, favourite colour red, signified by cigarettes, high waisted everything, red lipstick and big smile. Lives with two flatmates in Hoxton and although rented, the flat feels like home

#83 Female, Welsh, lives in Saudi Arabia. Wear full-length black abaya with shorts, vest, and flipflops underneath. Home is a considered a beautiful bay in Pembrokshire - misses it very much. Professional but may not work. Signified by a pair of sunglasses
Descriptions of each artist on the following two pages

Lottie Ellis - artist and teacher

Mel Ingram - dancer and choreographer, formerly with Rambert Ballet Company

Trudi Jackson - actor, seamstress, singer, learning the guitar

Niall McNemee - actor and signer

Stefan Schaffeld - artist and therapist

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P17 - TBC
P18 - (c)Lottie Ellis 2017
P19 - (c)Stefan Schaffeld 2017
References in order of appearance


Conley VA, 1984. *Hélène Cixous Writing the Feminine*, University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska: p32
