

Keynote title:

Actor, Hypothesis, Material: What's New About Material Thinking?

Speaker:

Nancy de Freitas

Bionote - October 2011



Nancy de Freitas is an academic and professional artist based at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand where she is Associate Professor in the School of Art and Design and Programme Leader of the Master of Arts Management. She is Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Studies in Material Thinking*. Nancy received her early education in Trinidad in the West Indies. She completed her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the Ontario College of Art and Design and the University of Auckland, respectively. Her installation works have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Nancy has been the recipient of several art awards, a Canadian Government Faculty Enrichment Award and Artist in Residence in three studio/research residencies based in Auckland, New Zealand. De Freitas has been involved in several research initiatives including the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia, and served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, the public art gallery for Manukau City, New Zealand. She has been invited to lecture internationally on art and design practice-led research and material thinking methods. Host Institutions include Parsons the New School for Design, NYC; Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University, Montreal; OCAD University (Ontario College of Art and Design), Toronto; Faculty of Fine Arts, York University, Toronto; Faculty for the Creative and Cultural Industries, University of Hertfordshire, UK; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane; Massey University, Wellington and the Design School, UNITEC, Auckland. Her current research interests include themes on professional education for the design, creative and cultural sectors, the language of research reporting, the effects of documentation/reflection practices on professional development and 'material thinking' approaches.

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Studies in Material Thinking
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