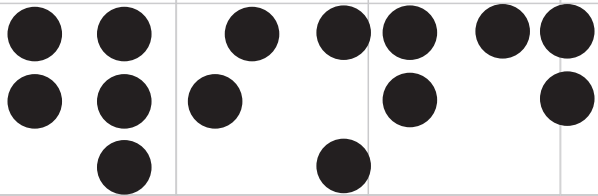
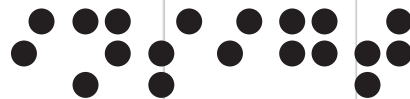


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Blind



Insight



Claudia Pfeil
2010





Massey University

COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

Toi Rauwharangi

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at Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand

By Claudia Pfeil, 2010

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my aunt Uti-Ruth Hampel (1932-1988).

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Abstract

The loss of sight is usually associated with the loss of the visual outer world. Traditionally, total blindness has been defined by sighted people in a negative way. The stereotypical belief is that the totally blind inhabit a dark world in which mental images of the outer world no longer exist. However, gaining insight into an experience of blindness may help the sighted to understand more accurately what Michael Monbeck (1973) terms 'the true meaning of blindness'. (Monbeck, 1973, p. 157)

Blind Insight provides an insight into what is named 'imagined blind seeing' by exploring the systematic processes of sensing, selecting and perceiving.

Through tracing and mapping two auditory experiences photographically, the resulting work, ***Blind Insight***, seeks to give a visual voice to moments of perception and imagined images as described by the blind author and scholar John Hull who describes sound as equating with light: "This is my way of turning on the light. Sound is the equation to light. Rain has turned the light on." (Hull, 2001, p. 10)

Abstract black and white photography has been employed to convey a sensory experience and photo collage to make visible the dimensional complexity of imagined blind seeing.

The design work argues for a fresh insight into the sensory and imagined world of the blind. By fostering a dialogue between the blind and the sighted, the research project aims at celebrating the many rich and diverse ways the senses, and in particular the sense of sound, are used in experiencing the phenomena of the physical world.

Contents

1.	Central Proposition	1
2.	Introduction: Framing the Picture	5-24
2.1.	Blindness-Terminology and Statistics	5
2.2.	Visual Perception, Visual Imagery and Imagined Blind Seeing	5
2.3.	Sensing: What it's like to be blind	7
2.4.	Selecting: Attentive and Associative Listening	15
2.5.	Perceiving: The Correlation of Environmental Sounds and Analogous Visual Mental Imagery	17
2.6.	Seeing: What the Blind see	21
3.	Aim and Motivation	25
4.	Method and Processes	27-64
4.1.	Sensing Methodology	27-53
4.1.1.	The <i>Dialogue in the Dark</i> Exhibition	27
4.1.2.	The Grid Technique	33
4.1.3.	The Photographer: Listener, Interpreter and Mediator	37
4.1.4.	Left- and Right-Brain Photography	39
4.1.5.	The Camera: Mechanical Metaphor for the Mind's Eye	41
4.1.6.	The Lenses: Windows to the World	45
4.1.7.	Additional Equipment	47
4.1.8.	Photocollage: Making Imagined Blind Seeing Visible	51
4.1.9.	Key text: John Hull, <i>Touching the Rock: An Experience of Blindness</i> ; Excerpt: Rain	53
4.4.	Selecting: The Entrance Scenario	55-67
4.4.1.	Imagining the Soundscape	55
4.4.2.	Picturing the Landscape	57
4.4.3.	Analysing the Soundscape	59
4.4.4.	Segmenting the Landscape	65
4.4.5.	Correlating Auditory and Visual Texture	67
4.5.	Perceiving: Framing Visual Thought	71-97

4.5.1.	There is something that is like	75
4.5.2.	Feeling Sound, Feeling Movement	79
4.5.3.	Recalling Associations	81
4.5.4.	Imagining Objects	95
4.5.5.	Sensing Space by Making Loudness Visible	97
4.6.	Seeing: Imagined Blind Seeing	99-101
4.6.1.	Transforming the Soundscape into Pictorial Landscape	99
4.6.2.	Piecing Together	101
4.7.	Learning: Applying Imagined Blind Seeing to a Second Scenario	103-117
4.7.1.	The Courtyard Scenario	103
4.7.2.	Analysing and Comparing the Soundscapes	107
4.7.3.	Segmenting and Interpreting the Landscape	111
5.	Conclusion	119
6.	Appendix	123-139
6.1.	John Hull <i>Touching the Rock, Rain</i> , pp 48-49	123
6.2.	Notes from the Photographer's Notebook: <i>Rain as a Communicator</i>	125
6.3.	Failed Approaches	129
6.4.	Bibliography	133
6.5.	List of Figures	136