

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

CURIOUS THINGS

HOW CAN DESIGN RESEARCH ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUDIO-TACTILE TOOLS FOR
GROUP MUSIC THERAPY SESSIONS INVOLVING PARTICIPANTS WITH DEMENTIA®

A THESIS PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF FINE ART

WITH A DESIGN ENDORSEMENT

AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY, WELLINGTON,

NEW ZEALAND

BRITTANY BYRNE

2014

ABSTRACT

This design research project explores the creation of sensory tools for Music therapists involved with the care of patients with Dementia. The research aims to develop appropriate prototypes that provide a more engaging, stimulative and therapeutic experience for participants in group therapy music sessions. The purpose of this research is to assist facilitators and music therapists in providing residents with tools that allow for more explorative modes of active live music making. This mode of interaction is intended to spur a haptic and sonic curiosity amongst participants, that allow for more positive group experiences. The design research explores whether such tools are able to effectively assist Music therapy sessions for dementia patients through evaluating responses to ergonomic, haptic, sonic and visual properties in the object. The study involved a qualitative design research methodology using co-creative, iterative design approaches. Methods and processes involved user observations, rapid prototyping, user diaries, ongoing prototype workshops, user testing and a focus group.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the following people for their ongoing help through the two years of my Master of Fine Art degree. Firstly I would like to thank my parents Dawn and Kellis Byrne for their emotional, spiritual and financial support throughout my degree. I would like to thank my sister Zarette Byrne for her ongoing help and emotional support through all aspects of my research. To my supervisors, Andre Ktori and Chris Bennewith, I am hugely grateful for your ongoing support and guidance. Your wisdom and guidance was invaluable in this project. I would like to thank the following individually for their help in my project thus far.

R.Heath

J.Roxas

M.Buchanan

G.Frost

S.Withers

J.Preston

Judith

N.Tudreu

N.Tudreu

J.Tudreu

J. Whitworth

A.Stuart

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank the man upstairs for his guidance and strength. Phillipians 3:1