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The Empty Portrait

Encounters with a Photographer

Virginia Woods-Jack

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An exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
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Virginia Woods-Jack

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Secondary Supervisor – Martin Patrick

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Cover image: Virginia Woods-Jack, untitled encounter,(detail), 2008

Abstract

The Empty Portrait forefronts a new experience of the portrait for all participants involved: the photographer, the subject, and the viewer. Breaking away from the camera, the materiality of the photograph, and the portrait as a locus of identity are central aspects of this new experience. As it challenges the relationship between photography and temporality, The Empty Portrait attempts to blur the boundary between the photographic and cinematic image, asking the viewer to look and contemplate further.

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Approval for the research has been obtained from the appropriate University ethics committee for the research outlined in the thesis.

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