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MANG

Mang Loss of Eye

Thesis presented in partial
fulfillment of the requirements
of the degree of
Master of Design

Massey University, Wellington
New Zealand

Zhiqing Yu
2014

Acknowledgement

This is the first time for me as a designer to design a book in a different format to a traditional book. This research project, and programme of studies has changed and impressed me a lot. Through out this learning period, I have learnt to be more grateful and thankful in my life, and learn in that to be a healthy person means a lot to me. It is really a happy thing to live a healthy life. The hard learning experience of my project has encouraged me to cherish life. Meanwhile, during the process of conducting this research, I would like to express my great thanks to many people: firstly, special thanks go to my supervisors Dr Caroline Campbell and Anna Brown. Not only have they been my guides in this design research, but they also have helped me overcome difficulties I have faced with. Many times when I was confronted with difficulties, I would almost give up. It is through their encouragement that I have completed my design research. Without their company, I would never have been able to go along this journey; secondly, my thanks go to my classmates and peers from the MDes and MFA. During the process, they have helped me search for evidence and academic materials; thirdly, I would like to give warm thanks to my parents and Dr Julieanna Preston. Without their help and support, I would not have the chance to study in this promising university; lastly, I would like to extend my thanks to all those others who have in some way helped me during this design research process.



It is hoped that through a careful reading of this design project, the life of blind people could be enriched.





image 1

Blind children in Blind Children School in Tibet. (Wang2006)



Abstract

According to World Health Organization 2013 statistics, there are approximately 285 million visually impaired people in the world, 39 million of whom are blind. In China, the country that I come from, it is estimated that there are around 12 million children are visually impaired. This design research project focuses on the reading needs of this audience by exploring book design for children and blind people's ability to perceive despite their 'loss of eye'. In it I apply haptic theory, cultural criticism, and secondary research into blind people's sensory experience to re-purposing the visual language, format and construction of the book. Through this rethinking, and return to my cultural motifs, legends and forms, I aim to probe how tactile design can assist unsighted people read and understand text.



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