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material assemblies

moving matters in urban milieus

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An exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts at Massey University
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abstract

Weaving both out from and into creative practice, this writing discusses three key works in a thesis project engages commonplace materiality through expanded modes of sculpture. It readdresses the city as a habitat, discovering urban fragments and spaces as sculptural forms. This project involves Installations and performative interventions working with, complicating, and expanding notions of 'site'. Through slow processes attentive to the minutiae of common spaces the project shapes new encounters with affecting 'things' often overlooked or undervalued. The emerging works navigate Wellington's Dominion Museum basement, storage corners of a contemporary Dunedin gallery and nearby bookbinder's building, and an intersection of paths in Wellington's city centre. Through a series of subtle gestures, this practice explores empathies and conversations with object-things which populate and punctuate shared common milieus. Situated within shifting contemporary landscapes, what unfolds through this thesis project is a fragmentation and diffusion of notions of site, belonging, and engagements with an animate sense of materiality.

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