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**My Heart Stops for You: Toxic Romance within
Contemporary Vampire Fiction.**

An exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the
degree of Master of Fine Arts at Massey University, Wellington, New
Zealand.

Master of Fine Arts

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Abstract

This thesis is motivated by popular cultures' present fascination with vampire fiction and located through a contemporary art practice. My art practice has become increasingly interested in the complex relationships between romance and toxicity, and the depth at which these are played out within contemporary vampire fiction. In order to further unpack the hypnotic yet toxic nature of the vampire figure and how they have such a hold on characters and audience alike, I have constructed my own narrative adopting similar techniques used by the makers and promoters of the genre. Through this narrative, consisting of a series of films and a promotional catalogue of vampire inspired engagement rings, I am attempting to critically engage with and explore the kinds of love present within current examples of vampire fiction and the critical questions arising from this study.

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