Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Seeing the City Through Film, Wong Kar Wai and Hong Kong

• Author(s) Name:

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• University or Company Affiliation:

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:

i. present via skype (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):

Seeing the City Through Film, Wong Kar Wai and Hong Kong

Often in, director, Wong Kar Wai’s, film, Chung King Express, with scenes crafted by cinematographer, Christopher Doyle, the story is told through characters experiencing their own aloneness. Doyle said, “The best films I’ve made are when I fell out of love. They are both informed by different kinds of loss, And I think that loneliness is one of the most beautiful experiences of life.” ¹The kind of space represented in Chung King Express is often transitory – the loneliness and beauty Doyle’s speaks to is a breathing presence in the Hong Kong depicted in Chung King Express. The characters are often filmed moving, running, hiding, in one threshold or another, such as, a dank underground corridor or a narrow street. The thresholds, like the corridor or street, are where the scenes happen, instead of permanent place. Hence, revealing Hong Kong as a site of constant

¹ “CHRISTOPHER DOYLE Cinematography in Tight Spaces | In Conversation | TIFF Bell Lightbox.” YouTube, YouTube, 2 May 2011. www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGgSaqInamM.
movement, a looming character drenched in hues of blue, green, and pink lighting, that embellish a spatial alone-ness.

Some of the most memorable scenes in Chung King Express are of the Century Mid-Levels escalator and walkway. It is one of the longest covered walkways in the world, and is one of the best examples of the transitory nature of the space in the film. Users pass by in droves, being able to look into apartments and be seen from the apartments that line the escalator. Bodies passing by in space anonymously. Anthony Vidler, stated, “We seldom look at our surroundings. Street and buildings, even those considered major monuments, are in everyday life little more than backgrounds for introverted thought, passages through which our bodies pass “on the way to work.”

In this paper I will focus on how film and Chung King Express in particular, construct a filmic world that sees the city, in this case Hong Kong. Along with how art and film highlight our surroundings with various poetic strategies to allow us to see what surrounds us and enrich our experience of space.

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Kimberly Connerton, PhD, is an artist, educator, researcher, and writer. Her research focuses on the intersubjective relationship between installation art and architecture, agency in architecture, examining the unconventional in design practice and pairing it with contemporary art to discover possibilities, and bringing art to the center of the cultural dialogue.

She has taught extensively across the disciplines of architecture, art, and design. History & theory and studio, undergraduate and graduate courses in New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Sydney at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, San Francisco Art Institute, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, and College of Fine Arts/University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Kimberly completed her PhD by dissertation and studio practice at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney in 2010. Her PhD, titled, Exposure: Self-Portraiture, Performativity, Self-Inquiry, focused on work by artists who appeared and performed in their own videos and photographs to highlight expanded notions of self and other and the extended genre of self-portraiture. She has exhibited her installations and public art in New York, Brooklyn, Sydney, Madrid, London, Toronto, and Melbourne. She writes art reviews from New York for Aesthetica Magazine.

Selected awards, include: City of Sydney, Art & About ,Public Art Award, 2012, in collaboration with Stephen Collier Architects, The Robert Raushenberg Foundation Grant and The University of Sydney - EIPRS/IPA- international post-graduate award (2006-2010).

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