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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Skateboarding, Architecture and Public Places: Rhythmic Reflections

• Author(s) Name:
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• University or Company Affiliation:
  Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.

• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)
  ii. screen one or two short documentary films as part of my presentation. These films are directly related to my written work, and more information/online previews of them can be provided on request.

• Abstract (300 words):
  The activity of skateboarding has come to be realized as far more than just an adolescent past time. Just as it has grown beyond the confines of the Californian beach side suburbs from which it originated, so too has analysis grown of skateboarding’s power to re-conceptualize, re-appropriate and disrupt the city-scape. Through a synthesis of qualitative and creative practice research methods, this project asks how skateboarders perceive and use architecture and public spaces in Perth, Australia. First, I locate my work in the theoretical context of previous research on skateboarding. Then, I outline a brief general history of skateboarding both worldwide and in Perth before detailing the differences between skate parks and city streets as locations for the activity, and expand on the latter’s importance in the theorizing of
skateboarding. Through a contextualization of skateboarding within Perth’s current cultural and economic climate, I frame skateboarding’s commodity critique against this present day backdrop. Finally, I detail a short history of skateboarding videos, before conceptualizing the three separate documentary film sequences that were made as part of the creative practice component of my research. The outcomes of my research are two-fold: the production of the aforementioned three audio-visual sequences, and a written exegetical component. While these two pieces of research are intended to be able to be viewed and read independently of each other, it is my intention that exposure to both will offer a clear and concise explanation of how skateboarders use architecture and public spaces in Perth, Western Australia.

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

The author of both the written and filmic works is Morgan Dyson. Morgan is a resident of Perth, Western Australia, and has been skateboarding and making short films since he was a teenager. The paper and films being submitted were completed as part of a Master of Media and Communication (majoring in Screen Arts) undertaken at Curtin University in 2016/2017. Morgan currently teaches English as a second language at Kaplan International College in Perth and is actively involved in the Perth skateboarding and filmmaking communities.