

Waterworks

Year: 2007
Level: Second Year, Autumn Semester 3
Unit: 33291 Studio Arts 1
Duration: 3 days
Dates: February 26, March 5, 12

Origin

'Waterworks' was the opening gambit of this Studio Arts unit. With the Fine Arts degree in 'teach out' mode, (with the suspension of intake and no first year program), the kinds of content familiar to 'Creative Strategies' was redirected into this second year core unit. As something of an experiment, we decided to see what would happen if the highly structured program of a 'Creative Strategies' unit (as a sequence of short project steps each requiring an outcome) were to carry over into second year, maintaining a high degree of productivity. The variety and quality of works produced confirmed the benefits of maintaining the momentum that Creative Strategies instilled in the first year of the program.

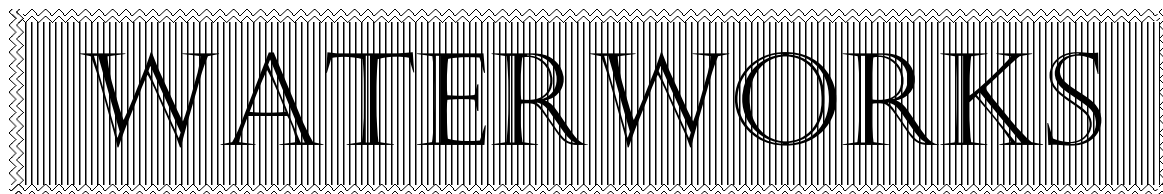
Premise

With Australia in the grip of drought and water scarcity, and with extensive media coverage addressing the worrying impact of global warming and climate change, it seemed appropriate to build a project around water. I prepared an extensive list of the properties and characteristics of water and its substantial metaphorical associations, all of which indicated the enormously significant part it plays in every individual's life, often in its ubiquity taken for granted. The vast array of possibilities in the way in which students could engage with this element provided substantial imaginative scope in creating a 'waterwork'.

33291 Studio Arts 1
Semester 1 2007

Project 1 Step 1

Submission date: Monday 12th March



WATER can freeze, boil, steam, flow, fill oceans, fall out of the sky, dilute, dampen, spill, wash, ripple, dribble, drip.

WATER can be drunk.

WATER flushes.

WATER can burn.

WATER drowns.

WATER goes round in circles: drenches, soaks, dries up, disappears, evaporates, returns, drenches, soaks, dries up, disappears, evaporates, returns, drenches, soaks, dries up, disappears, evaporates, returns, drenches, soaks.

WATER is transparent: a see-through solid.

WATER is cloudy.

WATER is heavy and floats in the air.

WATER sinks, is irresistible to gravity.

WATER can be pressured to spurt and spray.

WATER is amorphous, shapeless, shifty, clouds refuse geometry.

WATER is changeable, unstable.

WATER cries, Water urinates.

WATER is the solution to its own question.

WATER dissolves.

WATER is an elementary contradiction.

Even the riddle is rippled.

WORKING THROUGH WATER AS METAPHOR, HARNESS SOME
OF ITS WET ENERGIES AND WATER TIGHTNESS TO CREATE A
WATERWORK.