

The Idea of Ithaca

Year: 2008
Level: Third Year, Autumn Semester 5
Unit: 33292 Studio Arts 2
Duration: 4 days
Dates: March 26, April 2, 9, 16

Origin

Having some success with the transposition of a 'creative strategies' (first year) structure into Studio Arts 1 (second year) unit, the liberty was taken to further this structure (and ethos) into Studio Arts 2 (first semester, third year). The first half of the unit was thus structured in this way (a project of two prescribed parts), the second half then conceded to a self-directed format. Harry Barnett with whom I co-taught this unit conceived Part 1 'Extreme Indulgences and Corrupting Influences' and 'The Idea of Ithaca' which I devised followed from this. These were to be the final two projects we were to offer into the Fine Arts Program.

Premise

Knowing this to be my final offering, the Homeric myth of Ithaca, as a coming-home story seemed appropriate, following the 'great adventure' of the Fine Arts Program now coming to an end. A key notion I was to work with in this project was concerned with *authority*, what was it? And how could one gain it, in respect of one's own work, notions of *authenticity* was seen to equate with authorship/authority. The broad question of what constitutes 'home' then emerged as constitutive of one's own sense of authenticity or authority. The nexus between origins and originality was explored. I happened to have recently read V.S. Naipaul's "The Enigma of Arrival" an extraordinary novel that dealt with some of these concerns.

The project commenced with a *longing to belong*, a going-somewhere to recover something (as an act of rediscovery). To get to this 'place' a 'vessel' (homing device) needed to be purpose built to get to the destination. The 'vessel' was subject to critical engagement. The 'destination' however was presented in the absence of critique and explanation in a realm where no *justification* was required. Collectively titles were ascribed to each 'destination' which I collated and returned back to the group for reflection.

THE IDEA OF ITHACA

Part 2 of project 1 further explores the issue of *authority* in creating art. It is prompted by the question: how does art assume *authority*, what exactly do we mean by this? and what are some of the conditions necessary to render a work *authoritative*?

'The idea of Ithaca' refers to Homer's epic poem 'The Odyssey' (c700BC). This is a mythic homecoming story that charts Odysseus' heroic journey back to the place of his origin: Ithaca, and all the trials and tribulations he encounters along the way.

The idea of Ithaca is the idea of 'home', of '*coming-home*'.

What constitutes 'home'?

There is a mundane sense of home, understood as a domestic place, a place where we grew up, a house somewhere. Interwoven into this dwelling is a place of first experiences much more expansive than a mere street address; a special place, a formative place, where much happens, a place that in a certain sense could be said to have *formed* us. A place we begin to mythologise.

How do we 'originate'?

If notions of originality defer to notions of origins we find ourselves in the space of *belonging*, what does it mean to 'belong'? Is belonging an attachment of some kind to a place, (this *belongs* to me, this is mine), what is that place of belonging?

How do we authenticate our existence?

What is the impulse that drives the desire to be genuine?

Proposition

As an act of *belonging*, make a work that seeks to return you back to where you 'belong', (using your understanding of the notion of *belonging*.)

Propelled by *longing*, the excursion should be a *genuine* journey of *recovery*.

This part of the project (the final destination) will occur in the absence of commentary and as such should be seen as being both *unjustifiable* and *indefensible*, existing in a space anterior to language, *inexplicable* yet understood.

This work remains therefore both vulnerable and enigmatic.

To reach this work you will need to build a *vessel*, a device of transportation, a homing device to get you to your destination (your 'ithaca', your 'coming-back-home') The *vessel* needs to be purpose built to get you there.

The vessel will be scrutinised and discussed, providing the discursive site, suitably prepared for the excursion ahead.

You are required therefore to create two things:

A vessel (disclosed).

A destination (undisclosed).

Schedule:

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| March 26 | General discussion of strategies of departure, and directions to destination. The question of where-and-how-to-get-there?
You will need to have <i>sensed</i> your destination (undisclosed) and be in a position to discuss what will constitute your 'vessel' (disclosed) |
| April 2 | Presentation of 'vessels' |
| April 9 | Voyaging and Landfall (as work in progress)
General discussion of charting and trajectory. |
| April 16 | Presentation of Arrivals (the enigmatic destiny of beginnings) |
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Collected Titles:

Elisha Allison

Admiration

Seed

Comfort Sun, Second Sun, Basking Sun, The Happy Place

Seed

Symmetry Of Being

New Life, New Beginnings

Imitation Of Life

Flowers, Warmth, Fragile

Night Flower

In Memory Of A Real Flower (2050)

Sunpuff

Vincent – Life as a Flower

Eternal Sunshine

Books Expire, Flower Fire: The Carbon of the Sun

Paths Some Follow
Daisy Fields
Paper Growth
Responsive
Blossoming In The Light
Oxygen
Sun Flower Bag Pop Corn
Sunflower

Angela Boateng

Playful Resistance
Rainbow Factory
My Own Colour, Primary
Light Pegs
Dipping In The Rainbow
The Colour Wheel
Rainbow Connection
Washing
Confidence In Plastic Colours
Submerge Your Crown
Colour dip
Pretty in Pink
Water Colours the Wet Drip Dry
Kindergarten Painting
Drip
Colour Your World
Sun Shower
Transformative
Spectrum Fallacy
Letting Go Make Believe Childhood
Random Encounter
Yellow Brick Road

Ronell Catulong

Seep
Unravel My Heart
Everylong
To Jessica
Distances Apart
Two Hearts Connected Distance
Jessica Bled
Small Connected Hearts
A Heart's Entertainment
Cat A Lu Lu Unraveled Spine Long Time
Blood Paper of a Heart Event
Just Being Where You Feel Right
Blea-ting Frame
Come For The Ride
Yearning Desire
Intensive Care
Hanging by a Thread
Heartstring Chorus
Transplant
Bleeding Hearts Connected
Grief, Regret, Pain, Longing, Desire, Connection
Home Unification Yearning Disparate
4& 20 Blackbirds

Suna Celik

Vintage Ethnicity
Family Tree
Broken Home, Pieces of You Pieces of Me, Bathe Me, Purify
Ship Shape & Sinking
'Anneanne' Grandma
Open Doors and Doilies

When Your Welcome
A Cleansed History
Lost Memories
What I could Reach As A Child
The Slide & Tilt of the Slippery Soap
Landing Mark, Loving Mark
Past Memory In A Frame
Praying At The Alter
Language Soap
Heritage
Mother's Love
Attach Memories
Collection
Turkish Delight - Red Light and Memories Delight
Unlocking Memories / New Beginnings
Door Step On The Way
Slippin An' A Slidin'

Sarah Clutterbuck

Infestation
Dish Death, A Taking Over
Attraction, Repulsion
Time To Go Home
Let Me Go!
Magnetic Forces They Pull Us In And Spit Us Out Scattered
The Rules Of Attraction
Worms Swarming
The Last Supper
Resting Rusty Chocolate in Confetti Time
Rubber Will Stand Time Still 5 Pinches Of Rubber Will Stand Time Still
Timeless Attachment
A Lifetime Of Cooking
Magnetized
Infestation
Eatable Infestation
Time Lost Rummage
Shattered
Balancing Time In The Kitchin
Addiction
Home Fishing Infestation
Choctime Great!

Nicole Cochrane

Reflected Simplicity
Prehistoric Life, White Wash
The People of My People
Sandville
Coming Closer
'Whamae' The Story of our Past, The Story of our Ancestors, The Story of the Present
Everyday Is Like Sunday
Hermit Hidden?
I Was Once Home
There Is More Love In Beauty Than There Is Beauty In Love
Eyes of the Sand Blink as the Tide of the Sky Rolls In
Beach Container
Placing The Ancestors
Beach Huts
Mythical Tales
Beach House
Static Flow
Removed
Shadows of Sand Castles - Time Awaits No Sand
Moving Closer / Depth Wandering
Home By The Sea
She Sells Seashells On The Seashore

Priscilla Den-Hartog

Connection
Formulas & Faults
My Way Back, Freedom Ride
A Beautiful Mind
Follow The Yellow Brick Road
Short Cutting the Long Way Round
Catch The Bus Courtesy Of Me
Can You Make The Trip
Shuttle Science
Equations
Just Want To Get Home
Love Thy Notice, Notice Thy Love
Ways To Measure Home
Returning
Stop Cash
Equation to Home
Home James, Don't Spare The Horses
Mazed Den
Transported
Killing My Brain With Equations
Confused
Aversion

Emma Devine

Protection
Natures Nest Egg
Natural Coffin
Green Mouth
Cocoon
Our Home Built From Sticks and Leaves
Shelter
Instinct, Natural, Protection
Time's Hideaway
There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place, There's No Place.
Nature Entrance
Nesting With The Ancients
The Entrancing Lure
The Enchantment of the Lyre
Natured Love
Safe Haven
Empty Nest Syndrome
Dandelion Jane
Nest
For Lease
Cocoon Household Home
Nestly

Gillian Hand

Cultural Blend
Magic Eye
Spiral Dance, Erosion
Hippy Dance
Waves Apart
Our Family Sea
Warped and Weft
Vibrant, Imagination
Sands & Change
Urine Spilling The Seas
Sand Colour of Curves
Watching The River Flowing By
Aromatic Space
Dreamland: Sand Journey

Loosening the Technicolour Shore
Shifting Sands – Woven Life
Tightrope of The Tropics
Fluid
Rushing Textiles and Coloured Sand - Feels like Water
Inner Sanctum Holy Place
Family Hegemony
Hippie Heaven

Kathryn Hudson

Concealed Comfort
Snow White
Davey Jones' Locker
Asylum
Huddle
Heartbeats, Under The Covers
Sleeping In The Light
Confined
Call Waiting
Humanpod
Sleeping Inner Ear
Enclose Beat
I'll See You On The Dark Side of The Funny Farm
Beating Doona
Panic Room
The Living Dead
Pulsating Cloud
Encapsulated
Pulse In White Womb
Patience
Seclusion, Isolation, Fear, Boxed In

Jenna Kapaun

Fragmented Perception
Dark & Light, A Figure Found
Insignia, Flesh and Sable
Dark Filigree
Pieces
Body Art Exposed Bodies
Furtive Glimpses – The Archaeology of Desire
Sense her In The Night
Secrets
Darkness Comfort
Cropping Humans For Tatoed Seats
Tattoo / Dark Imprint
Wrestling In the Shadow World Alone
Body Attachment
Fetish In Dark Spaces
Barely There
Glowing Skin
Exposure In The Dark
Expectation
Segregation Purgery

Danielle Leonello

Comforting Emptiness
Flesh Faced
Womb, My Last Song, Flesh
'Italian Job' Jesu
Touch
Body Birth Life Who We Are In Our Original State
Jesu – The Body
Natural, Family, Pure, Hymn A Bit Meditative Like A Cleansing Ritual Or Something
Yes? Ashamed?
Cooling The Pink Lawn

The Caress of Death
Family Blood
Dentro l'amore
Bare Identity Roots
The Sacrament of Surrender
Breathe
Generations Touching Each Other
Liquid Motion
Thrice
Comforting Touch
Comfort
Eternal, Immortal

Amy Lin

Balance
White Bread / White Rice
Suspending Balance, Two Bridges, Two Times
Table Cloth
Two Cultures Swing
Between Cultures
Suspended Meal Time
The Gift of a Lullaby
Boat
Eating Culture
Shipping Nuts Across Death Mat Square
Mix Task
Sliding Along The Trade Winds
Culture Shipped
Just Us Three
Staple Food
Trapeze Sail
Structured
Bridging Cultures
Journey
Australasia Assimilation Integration
Junk Mail

Gary Makin

Triumph
Drowning World Paradise
Sunrise Sunset
Psychelovoyd
Building
Takes You To Euphoria Somewhere Here
Cross Global Concept
The Dune's Tune
Desert Travel
Decent
Internal Mating Unnerves The Dirt
Undulating Camels
Deep Tropic Repeat
Riding A Wave Shyness
Tantalized Structure
Battle Of The Greats
Stalk Walk Through Water
Stone Throw Medallion
Cyclic
Penetrating Wonder - Worldly Journey
Exploring The View
New Original Re-Animate
I Am The Music Man, I Go From Town To Town & I Can Play

Anna Marquez

Security
Sunny Seaside Fun

Sunblock
Yellowtrail
Follow Me...
Follow The Yellow Piece Road
The Yellow Things Road
Yellow Structure, Path
The Bower Bird That Wasn't
Join Me, Grate My Skin, Join Your Skin To My Skin, Eat My Skin
Dry Yellow Walkway
Camping At Coledale
Incubating the Little Shadow's Solar Flare
Yellow: A Path To Home
Yellow Therapy
Dainty Footsteps of Life
Utilitarian
Follow The Yellow Things Home
Deep Down
Equal Opportunity
Mardi Gras

Sarah Pacey

As One
Circle Connection
Button Me
Freemasons In A Rose Garden
Don't Walk Away
The Chain Of Smell Connected By Smell
Make The Connection
Sharing Together Reminder
Unfold
Mark The Mating Thread
Heading Around in Circles
Tag and Join In
Ringling Bros. Flying Circus
Attached Scent
Connectable: Remember This
Attachment
Buttoning The Circle
Growing Attachment
Attached
Scented Connections
Flock of Seagulls
Social Community

Delwyn Paech

Drained Perfection
Outback Rainbow River
Beyond The Farm, Missing Home
Patience
Tied
The Hovering Wind Splash
The Dam Needs Water To Grow
Dam-Nation
The Bounce of the Divine
Patience Organised Lines, Perfect
Untangle This
When Muffansa Left Simba
Deep Diving into the Trampoline
Grass Fun
Just Like a 1000 Day of Climbing the Water Tower
Stringed Bath
Still Surface
Highly Strung
Vortex
Seen Through A Mirror

Toiling Away
Coming Together
Runoff
Wind & Water

Brooke Page

Coming To
Speaking Water Trees
Shivering Amnesia
Drowning Sheoak
Ithaca: Fragments Of A Dream
Crawling Lines and Disturbed Tranquillity
Memoirs of a Geisha Memories Times Lost In The Waters Of The Past
Tied To The River
Floating & peaceful though at the same time has a heavy pulling feel, trapped maybe
Left For Dead
The Moth Taketh, The Spoon Leaveth
Aqua News
A Cold Day Dawning on The Edge of Sensory Perception
Fluttered Lash
Entanglement or Clearly Informed
World War Two Instability
Light Tunnel Movement
Noise
Surreal Reflections - Violence
Immersed / Spiralling
Reminiscent, History Repeating Itself
Marie Celeste

Nelson Phillips

Active Choice
Blocks & Squares, Red Circles
Challenge Me
Red Room Chess Board
Balancing Games
The Chopping Block of Logic
Build The City
The Name Of The Game
Opposites
I'll Beat You At A Game You Don't Understand
Swinging Is For Corks
Retreats Advancing, Advances Retreat
Sequence Deco
Scrabbling The Deck Chairs
Cheese & Crackers
Strategic Plan
Your Rules
Loss Over Joy
Play
Making Things White & Playing With Peanut
Hungry For Cheese & Biscuits
Strategic Feel

Ebony Secombe

Raw
No Pants, Unsure Red Lines
This is Me, Scars, Self Infliction, Solitary Confinement, Illusion to Self Destruction
'The Blue Period'
Unveiled (Look Away)
Exposed Pain Raw
Marking Territory
Bare, Alone, Intimidated Compassion To Do Something
Eye Contact
Erasing the Razor
Ebony Dances With Wolves

Silence of Scars
Reflecting The Power of Resistance
Healing is Revealing, Hell is Heaven Sent
Cut Blue / Blue Cut
A Mother's Love
Attachment To Self
Rouge Crease Belonging
Remissions
Intense Awkwardness
Vulnerable Healing
Deprived Abandoned Deprivation

April Soliman

Burst
Coloured Growth
Falling Through The Leaf's Story
Memory Fusion
Patterning In No Places
Pieces Of My Tree
Organic Mosaic
The Hand that Opens the Sky
Tiny Pieces
What Happens To The Family Tree In Autumn
Us One Reach One, Ask One Reach One
Giving Leaf, the Tree Blossoms
Leafs of Pictures
The Family
Foliage
Branching Out
Family Tree
It's All In The Past Isn't It?
Collective
Community Foliage / Family Tree
Family Leaves
Paper – Scissors – Stone

Jade Webster

Geoffrey Wong

Around Each Corner
Train Track Maze
Victory Field, Battleground, Trench
Amazing Maze
Hide and Seek
Confused Wood The Path To No-Where
Z My Labyrinth My Home
Maze
Claustrophobic Wharf
Letters To No Place, Come Live In My Place
Stop Points of an End
Every Maze Should Have Its Own Shower Recess
Now Boarding, Make Your Way through the Gate
Mazedwood
Unoccupied
Domain
Boardwalk Hygiene
Tripping On A Revisitation
Climbing / Blood, Sweat & Tears
Lost Home
Stairway To Heaven (Cleanliness is next to Godliness)