

RGC Reference CityU 31600114

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**The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong
Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel
Completion Report**
(for completed projects only)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title

Self Portrait of the Artist Meditating on Death: A Vanitas. How Contemporary Neuroscience and New Imaging Technologies Can Increase Our Understanding of Consciousness and Our Response to Memento Mori Paintings

2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved

Name/Post	Unit/Department/Institution	Contact Information
Prof. Jane PROPHET, Professor	School of Creative Media City University of Hong Kong	JPROPHET@cityu.edu.hk Tel: 3442 6552

Part B: The Report

5. Workplan

5.1 Workplan as per original application

1. *Final amendments to art objects*
2. *Exhibition of the project*
3. *Evaluation of visitors to the exhibits*
4. *Publication: prepare academic papers and conference presentations.*

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5.3 Realisation of the workplan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

1. Final amendments to art objects

This was completed on schedule and 3D prints were made from the data gathered from fMRI, MRI and facial scanning.

2. Exhibition of the project (art objects)

The objects made for Neuro Memento Mori have been shown after peer reviewed selection in multiple venues (in Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Denmark). See Dissemination list for more details. The 3D printed piece was part of the launch ethnographic exhibit of new Moesgaard museum Aarhus, Denmark and is still being shown (this is now the second year of that exhibition). The piece was further developed in response to audience evaluation of visitors to Moesgaard (development of art at no cost to HSSPFS). A more complex version was subsequently made and shown in Japan, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Audience 4000+

3. Evaluation of visitors to the exhibits

Qualitative interviews with visitors to the Moesgaard Museum and discussions with the curator and anthropologist, Ton Otto, revealed that the first version of the sculpture, while of interest to visitors would benefit from development. It is shown alongside hundreds of objects from the permanent collection, including highly decorated skulls and my object's white surface was very plain.

In response I developed a highly complex version using videos projected onto the 3D sculpture. This drew on interviews with the anthropologist and visitors to the museum to design highly coloured image sequences. This version, shown in Japan, New Zealand and Hong Kong has been very popular and communicates the core ideas of the research more fully.

4. Publication: PI prepares academic papers and conference presentations.

This was a valuable use of the fellowship period. Face to face conversations with students, PhD researchers from a range of disciplines informed the research. These included anthropologists (Ton Otto, Moesgaard Museum), psychologists (Joshua Skewes, Aarhus University), neuroscientists (Andreas Roepstorff, Aarhus University; Zoran Jospipovic, New York University; and researchers from humanities and social sciences (David Gruber, Massey University, New Zealand; Cordelia Fine, University of Melbourne; Nikolas Rose, King's College London) enabled me to develop a series of thought pieces, shared via email and then developed into peer-reviewed papers and chapters. See Dissemination list for details.

6. Dissemination plan

6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Peer reviewed papers

1. Jane Prophet, *(Projection) mapping the brain: a critical cartographic approach to the artist's use of fMRI to study the contemplation of death*, **ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG) - Proceedings of ACM SIGGRAPH Asia, Kobe 2015**, Vol. 34 No. 6, November 2015

Chapters

2. Jane Prophet, *Self-Portrait of the Artist Meditating on Death: Feminist Technoscience and the Apparatus of Contemporary Neuroscience Experiments*. In, **The Routledge Handbook to Biology in Art and Architecture**. Routledge: New York 2016. (In Manuscript)

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Exhibitions

3. 2016 Neuro Memento Mori: projected meditations on death, *Inter Society for Electronic Arts 2016: (Re)volution*, Hong Kong
4. 2016 Neuro Memento Mori: projected meditations on death, *ALTER: Between Human and Non-Human*, Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
5. 2015 Neuro Memento Mori: projected meditations on death, *SIGGRAPH Asia*, Kobe, Japan
6. 2014 Neuro Memento Mori: Portrait of the Artist Contemplating Death, *The lives of the dead*, Mosegaard Museum, Aarhus, Denmark
7. Neuro Memento Mori: video documentary, *SIGGRAPH Asia*, Shenzhen, China

Peer-reviewed Talks and Presentations

8. (Projection) mapping the brain: a critical cartographic approach to the artist's use of fMRI to study the contemplation of death, Death panel, *SIGGRAPH Asia 2015*, Kobe, Japan
9. Life, death, growth and decay: memento mori, new materialism and disgust, (Re)volting Data panel, *ISEA2016: (Re)volution*, Hong Kong
10. 2015 Neuro Memento Mori: portrait of the artist contemplating death, BIOS panel, College Arts Association, New York
7. **Other impact** (e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.)

n/a