

A new context for new possibility.

Any object/set/costume does not have a finite set of possibilities but it's relevance, impact, and resonance is entirely shaped by it's context.

We assembled an array of seemingly random objects: astronaut suits, money, a plant, cables, apples, a yellow swimsuit, fans, electrical items and an inflatable octopus suit.

We also had a multitude of bulky clothes - an attempt to represent Jo's desire for a panda suit.

The selected items have a multiplicity of meaning/reference points.

Our interest didn't settle on any individual elements but evolved into a preoccupation with the combinations and juxtapositions of these elements and the body in space.

Some frames for our activity:

The choreography of objects

Installation of the body

Creating sculpture

Balancing space/objects body

Transformation of objects through the body, and transformation of the body through objects

In the evolving absurd landscapes something significant appeared:

Moments of recognition, of shared understanding, of emotional resonance.

Matter has power, history, agency and, in relationship to the body, brings up common references. Objects have the ability to provoke the imagination, narrative, individual interpretation and shared understanding.

For example as Jo said:

'There was a radical shift as the cash entered the space, an embodied felt-sense of every individual's relationship to money - desire, need, repulsion, jealousy, homelessness, survival within capitalism.'

We hung onto this clarity. We recognised our activities as a potential performance frame and a way of working through our current socio political and climate context.

We called it

“moving through our collective bleakness within a buoyant space”.

The work became a collaborative process of searching for connection, meaning and relevance.

Together we were searching for an activity, mode or image to commit to: a place where

we could enter an imaginative realm.
A place of 'no despair'.

Key references:

Agential realism/theory of Intra-action by Karen Barad Feminist Physicist/Social Theorist and the idea that 'things emerge through their relationships with each other'.

Dry your tears to perfect your aim - Jacob Wren

Douglas - Robbie Synge

YARD - Allan Kaprow

10 principles of Burning Man

Some words of reflection on the landscape we inhabited:

Absurd

The astronaut encounters a plant

Lonely bodies

Desolate

Landscape of debris

Co-existence

Things don't work

The Need for clean air

The Need for clean water

Women in a swimsuit

A fish out of water

Apple

Barriers, clothes, protection , hiding, comfort , separation, isolation

The maths doesn't work

Flooded with information

The on-going even in the absurdity

Deborah Light, Wales, Tier 9