

ATTIWILL Suzie (Aus)

Spacecraft - paper

This paper is located in the space between – between objects and subjects; between categories of art, design and craft; between classifications of traditional and contemporary. It will be argued that the space between is a composition of relations rather than a space per se. These relations are dynamic and creative, producing objects, subjects and meaning. A focus on relations between things exposes a diversity of existing and potential ways of encountering things and meaning. For example the dialectical opposition of traditional and contemporary becomes apparent as a modernist relation. Sue Rowley in the introduction to *Reinventing Textiles* poses these issues and suggests that ‘it is useful to think of craft in terms of multiple temporalities’. This paper will take up this proposition and explores it in a space between with reference to textiles and time.

The title of the paper *spacecraft* introduces craft into the discussion in *the space between* as both a spatial conjunction – the crafting of space – and the notion of spacecraft as in UFOs (unidentified flying objects). These are encounters – spatial and temporal events – in which craft becomes critical in the making of relations – stitching, plying, weaving, felting – connecting surfaces.

Suzie Attiwill is a senior lecturer in Interior Design, School of Architecture and Design, RMIT. She also maintains an independent practice which involves the design of exhibitions, curatorial work, writing and working on a range of interdisciplinary projects in Australia and overseas. Suzie has been invited to curate the 16th Tamworth Textile and Fibre Biennial, a national touring exhibition due to open late 2004.
