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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.