BUNYAN Marcus (Aus)

Habitus – paper

“The habitus…. should not be thought of as a collection of rules but as a series of
dispositions and inclinations that are both subject to circumstances and durable enough to
pass down through generations. The habitus is conveyed through the orientation and
movement of the body as it transverses cultural spaces and experiences temporal rhythms.
(Hayles, Katherine. How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and

This presentation will investigate how living with textiles, fashion, and a fashion designer
(Paul Anthony) has influenced the development of an intertextual art practice.

Since my first solo exhibition in 1992 my art
practice has examined the interstices of body,
nature, and technology, the habitus, if you like,
of our spatio-temporal place in the world. Upon
reflection this examination has been cross-
pollinated by the ideas, designs, textiles, and
thoughts of my partner producing an
interdisciplinary synthesis that allows me to
combine the mediums of photography, fashion, textiles, and installation art.

Work influenced by cross-pollination includes the exhibition ‘All Natural Fibres’ 1996
(http://www.netspace.net.au/~bunyan/efour.html), the installation ‘At What Depth Do Flui-ids
Clot?’ 1997 (http://www.netspace.net.au/~bunyan/efour.html), the body of work ‘The Colour of i-
(http://www.netspace.net.au/~bunyan/eten.html), and the body of work ‘Habitus’ 2003

For my partner I search op-shops for fabric remnants and old dress patterns, for myself
1940s suits and ties (I recently spoke at the international fashion conference ‘Making An
Appearance: Fashion, Dress, and Consumption’ at The University of Queensland on the
eclectic and spatio-temporal elements of op-shop fashion, focusing on the hypertextual
nature of the consumer, where viewer and viewed, author and reader become one). I have
made and update my partners website, taking photographs of his work for the site
(http://www.paulanthonydesigns.com). Recently my partner and I designed his first retail outlet
in Chapel St., Prahran using the intertextual nature of my art practice, our eclectic nature of collecting things, the layering of his clothing and my art, using these skills to design the shop. This shop and the design will be shown in the presentation.

Fashion, textiles, design, art and technology have become my habitus, my orientation, and through this presentation of images and words I hope to convey to the audience the way an art practice can elude traditional categorisations, becoming textu(r)al, both text and texture at one and the same time.

Dr. Marcus Bunyan, The University of Melbourne

marcus bunyan is an artist who works with digital photography, sculpture, & installation art forms. he is currently research fellow at the university of melbourne in the department of information systems and is a cultural observer and writer. his doctoral thesis at rmit university, melbourne, investigated whether the muscular mesomorphic body image affects the self-esteem of men and traced the development of this body image within photographic practice and gym culture. he recently spoke at 'the space between', and international fashion conference at the university of queensland, on the topic of eclectic and spatio-temporal elements in op-shop fashion.