The proposed paper will explore the reflective space of practice. This will be done through a consideration of practice as a means for locating oneself in space (the geography of creating). Whereby the artefacts of the practice (text, image, sound, movement, object) become the markers of place (the located self identity and actualized self) and self-expression. This will be considered both theoretically and in practice – my cross-disciplinary practice of art, design, fashion, studio and theory.

The term practice and the exploration of practice has become a hot topic over recent years. What is practice? What does it mean and how does it relate to what we do? With the increased complexity of our current world and the work that we do within it, I believe that there is an subsequent need for us to be able to hold what it is that we do and the many faces/roles that we have. Once you were a painter and that is what you did – paint. Now you are a painter and you work in new technologies, you write, you have a theoretical viewpoint, you teach theory of design and any other number of possibilities. With this move to such an expansive context for practice comes a free form of location, a transient mobile understanding of who and what we are. This paper aims to address these issues as they relate to who we are as creative practitioners through a search for critical clarity.

Research will draw from, and reflect upon, relevant literature within the themes of geography, the body, creativity, identity, reflection and practice (Tuan, Grosz, Bachelard, de Certeau, Merleau-Ponty, Schon, Stewart etc). I will also draw on recent installations exploring the nature of creative reflection in practice and the proposed exhibition ‘co-respond’ which will also be part of the conference.

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Laurene Vaughan is a lecturer and researcher at RMIT University. Laurene's practice embraces the integrated nature of work, creation and knowledge, and this is explored across a range of disciplines. She is particularly interested in creative exploration, processes and subsequent applications and outcomes.