

**PhD Research Study: *The Digital Index: Creating immediacy through the integration of digital photography and captured data***

**Researcher:** Catherine M. Weir – PhD Research Student (School of Fine Art)

**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide if you wish to participate in this study. It is important that you fully understand why this research is being done and what your participation will involve before you agree to take part. If you have any questions please get in touch with me at the address below. Thank you.

**Who is conducting this study?**

My name is Catherine M. Weir, I am a PhD Research Student based at the Glasgow School of Art. I am a visual artist working across photography and digital media, and you can see examples of my work online at [www.cmweir.com](http://www.cmweir.com). My research interests concern the changing nature of photography in relation to digital practices.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

This study forms part of an artistic investigation into methods of combining digital photography with live and recorded data, with the aim of establishing whether or not the use of such data can facilitate a sense of connection to the subject of the photograph.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

The study is not aimed at any one particular group of people, however, in order to ensure a balanced sample of participants it is important that both people with and without specialist knowledge of photography and digital arts are interviewed. As part of the interview, you will be asked some questions about your own use/experience of photography and digital media.

**What will participating in the study involve?**

You will be invited to view an exhibition of digital photographic artworks at The Tontine Lecture Theatre, Glasgow School of Art, 20 Trongate, Glasgow, and to answer a number of questions in a follow up interview. The interview will be a semi-structured one between 45 minutes and 1 hour long and will mainly focus on your experience of the artworks on display. The entire process should take no more than 2 hours of your time.

The audio of the interview will be digitally recorded and the recording will later be transcribed into text form and permanently deleted following the completion of the study, expected to be September 2017.

The information you provide will be used to understand how people respond to the artworks on display and inform future approaches to developing similar artworks. You will be asked to sign a form consenting to the use of your words in written form and may be quoted in publications detailing the results of this study, but you will not be

personally identified. None of the information you provide (e.g. voice recording, quotations) will be used as material for future artworks.

**Are there any risks involved in participating?**

The artworks on display will not include any material liable to cause offence or distress to viewers (e.g. images of violence, nudity, strong language). The interview will ask you about your own personal use/experience of photography and digital media, and your previous experience of photographic and digital art exhibitions, but you will not be asked to share any of your personal photographs.

**How will my privacy be maintained?**

All recordings and transcriptions will be held in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act. Digital voice recordings and any other personal information you provide (e.g. name, contact details) will be securely kept on a hard drive accessible only to the researcher and will not form part of any public dissemination of the results of this study. All recordings will be permanently deleted upon completion of the study.

You will not be personally identified in transcribed interviews, but some contextual information may be provided (e.g. photography student, 20, regular exhibition visitor). You are welcome to a copy of your interview recording and/or transcribed interview.

**What happens if I change my mind about participating?**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, meaning that you can withdraw at any time without needing to give a reason. You may stop the interview at any time and you do not need to answer any questions you do not want to. If you choose to withdraw, even after having given an interview, none of the information you provide will be used in the study and all records deleted.

**Do I get anything for participating?**

There is no payment for participating, you will, however, be reimbursed for your travel to and from the venue within Glasgow City. If you are travelling from outside the city, please contact me in advance to discuss your travel costs. Refreshments will be provided at the interview and you will receive an invitation to any future exhibitions your input has helped to shape.

**Is there someone I can talk to if I have concerns about participating?**

Yes. If you have any concerns, at any time, about participating in this study, please contact Dr. Nicky Bird at the address below.

**Can I keep a copy of this information?**

This information sheet is yours to keep, regardless of your decision. If you do decide to participate you will also be given a copy of your signed consent form to keep.

**Researcher**

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