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SUPER STUDIO 2020

SuperStudio 2020 Brief

Preamble

“Though we have all encountered our share of grief and troubles, we can still hold the line of beauty, form, and beat – no small accomplishment in a world as challenging as this one. Hard times require furious dancing. Each of us is the proof.” Alice Walker [*Footnote: Alice Walker, Hard Times Require Furious Dancing: New Poems*, Novato, California: New World Library, 2010, xv]

The extreme events of the past year cannot be ignored. Landscapes have been violently damaged by bushfire, drought, water and wind. It is clear that climate change has not registered our state borders, even though we suddenly have. The empty streets of lockdown have swelled with the massive collectivism of global protest movements, only to empty again. Industrial explosions have destroyed an ancient living sacred site in our country and have devastated an entire city in another.

Meanwhile, many of us are experiencing the intense self-awareness of our own bodies like we never have before, re-inhaling breath trapped by a face mask, monitoring everything we touch, and measuring our distance from others. From our homes, the local and international become conflated on our news feed, especially when many of us aren't allowed to visit the other side of our own city or the next town over.

Provocation

Humans have a long history of dealing with uncertainty and tragedy and we know that the current situation is both unsustainable and prescient. Renewal and healing can come through collective displays of grief and empathy. We ask – how can we come together while we're all physically grounded, with many sheltering in place? If we're going to do a design studio in the middle of all this then it should be something that takes us away from our everyday selves. This is a time to be imaginative, caring, serious-minded and romantic.

Program

This year SuperStudio would like you to find a place in the world that has been desolated, damaged or destroyed that has particularly resonated with you. You've never been there, and you can't travel there now. What place have you spent too much time thinking about or too much energy not thinking about? This studio is not about solving the problems of a place – it is about finding a way through the problems of our collective psyche.

Your studio response to this place should aim to help you and others process the events that have occurred there. There is no particular kind of approach required, you are encouraged to be meaningfully inventive. It could be some form of memorial. It could involve a ceremony, an event,

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an occupation, reclamation, action, or protest. Perhaps it is something to be experienced in silence and alone.

Your relationship to this place doesn't need to be knowledgeable but it should be respectful. Consider how you approach this gap in understanding as part of your response. Consider how your proposal may allow people to grieve but will also inspire or renew them.

Will people attend the site physically or do they participate from a distance? Will your proposal include those who are far away?

How will your proposal transform the site? Will this be immediate, or will it evolve and change over time? What is your intent? What might be the future of this place?

Method

As a first exercise, forensically examine a single photo or a video from this place. Explore its spatiality – all you know about this place is what you can infer from this photo or video. What do you think it might smell like? What details can you observe in the buildings or landscape? What do you think has been lost? Where is the real trauma? What opportunities can you see inside the image?

Bring in other disciplines if needed to inform the project or the presentation, this might include the knowledge of any non-architects you're cohabiting with during lockdown.

When developing your response, you are encouraged to use tools that will help you explore and think creatively. Use your hands, test things rapidly, shut your eyes, try something different.

The images in the links below are to be used as guidelines to formulate your response. Should you desire to respond to a different image or set, you should be prepared to back up your decision to steer away from the images below in your presentation.

Imagery:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/08/photos-aftermath-beirut-explosion/614968/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/05/world/satellite-images-beirut-explosion-before-after-trnd/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2020/jun/02/peaceful-protests-in-pictures-america>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/gallery/pictures-nsw-bushfires>

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-04-10/new-york-city-coronavirus-deaths-bodies-buried-hart-island>

Submission and Final Presentation

Participants should stop working on their proposal and be ready to present from 10am Local time Saturday 5 September.

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Final Presentations will be a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation using information of your own curation and selection. There are no specific parameters around the number or type of media, drawings and artifacts which you are to present.

You will have 2 mins for Q&A/feedback from the judges. Total presentation time will not exceed 7 mins.

Submission requirements

In addition to your live presentation you must submit the following in the format outlined below,

1. Supporting material from your live presentation (ie sketches, drawings, renders, PowerPoint presentation etc) 3 x sheets maximum
2. Hero images: 2 x maximum, that represents your proposal at 1080px x 1080px
3. Text description: 1 sheet: max 250 words that clearly explains your concept – Should include a project title – no images on this sheet text only

How to submit

Upload a single PDF file with max 5 sheets to your Google Drive or Dropbox and send the sharing link to your SONA rep via zoom private chat on the presentation morning.

File Naming

File name should be your state & team names used for your registration (eg QLD_tim-sally-john)

How to submit if you can't submit live

- Record your presentation via zoom as if you were presenting live – **this cannot exceed 7 mins in length** – if it does we will have to cut the recording short.
- Upload your presentation recording along with the above submission requirements to your own google drive or drop box and send the sharing link to sona@architecture.com.au by the deadline **Friday 2 September 1pm**
- It is **highly recommended** participants present live on Saturday 5 September – if prerecording you will miss out on q&a with the jury from the jury and the opportunity to clarify elements of your proposal plus a shorter amount of time to work on your proposal.

Judging Criteria

- Empathy Towards Others
 - How well have others been considered in the proposal.
- Sense of Renewal
 - How well does the proposal consider its legacy towards its place. This applies to all proposals, regardless of the length of time they are intended to exist.
- Experiential Qualities

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- How well have students considered the experiential qualities of their proposal, whether physical or otherwise. How well are these intended experiences conveyed.
- Conceptual Clarity
 - Is there a clear idea driving the proposal? How well have the students described the motivations for their proposal.
- Meaningful Inventiveness
 - Have the students been creative and does this have purpose. Do decisions made support the ideas driving the proposal.