

Katherine Bash: The Atlas for Experimental Poiesis
Collection CAE1402

Introduction/Abstract

The first and smaller series of this archive is comprised of materials from the Floating Island project initiated by Bash with the writer William L. Fox while in residence at the Center for Land Use Interpretation's Wendover facility in 2006. The larger part of the archive is Bash's 2011 bound and boxed PhD thesis, *Spatial Poetries: Heuristics for Experimental Poiesis*.

Biographical Note: Katherine Bash

Born in Texas and living in London, Katherine E. Bash received degrees in biology (BA) and design (MFA) from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Architecture from UCL. She is Founder and Principal Investigator of the Itinerant Laboratory for Perceptual Inquiry; her practice engages the possibilities of creating new language as creative analysis of place.

Scope and Content

The archive consists of two parts. The first and smaller series comprises materials from the *Floating Island* project initiated by Bash with the writer William L. Fox while in residence at the Center for Land Use Interpretation's facilities at Wendover during a period in the summer of 2006. A second trip was undertaken the following year to complete fieldwork for the project, which is about the perceptual phenomenology of the isolated landmass at the eastern end of the Bonneville Salt Flats. The completed work was exhibited at the CLUI Exhibit Hall 2 in 2008. This part of the archive also includes connected materials generated by Bash and Fox during that time period.

The larger part of the archive is Bash's bound and boxed PhD thesis, *Spatial Poetries: Heuristics for Experimental Poiesis*, a volume that covers her artistic career to the date of thesis completion in 2011. It includes *Floating Island* as one of her works. Other projects included are: the *Blink Chair*, a tilting table to turn upside down a participant's view of the world; dancing with a windshirt to make visible the movement of air; creating *Perforations* in midair and on the ground with tossed handfuls of colored wet sand and documenting the related patterns.

The theme of Bash's research is the study of how things take form in experience, consciousness and language. In large part, it explores the identification and the naming of ephemeral event phenomena that are as of yet unnamed. This exploration is pursued within the framework of a "Lived Spatial Inquiry called Experimental Poiesis. The methods of this inquiry facilitate both the study and the subversion of normal habits of language-focused perception and are called Heuristics—experimental aesthetic practices that are site-adjustable and engaged iteratively, where the results of one experiment become the starting point of the next. Thus it is iterative. *Spatial Poetries*, the artwork products are also the results of the engagement of Heuristics. They are hybrid in form and prompt shifts in lived experience in the viewers/readers/co-participants."

This archive is currently in process.