



earth-lens (detail), Juss Heinsalu, 2017 (photo Andrew Godsalve). An example of *lumination* - a condition where matter is merged with light.

The Fourchettes seminar: Materiality matters: struggles with digital technology and the (em)body/i(ed) @ NSCAD University

Reflection by Juss Heinsalu

Creation/making is engaged with technology from archaic craft to today's hi-tech engineering. One could argue that the evolution of technology has dictated the use of materials; or perhaps, it is the materiality itself enabling the growth of skills and the invention of tools. *Is it a symbiosis? How do we find and define meaning, when disciplines overlap, when there are no distinct and linear lines to draw? Conceivably meaning itself becomes material; begins *mattering* (look for Karen Barad).*

An idea that materiality and 'things' have agency echoed in several presentations at the ArtBar. Matter embodies knowledge/memories. That we, artists, observe, use and reveal the information given to us by the subject matter; as we explore forgotten artifacts, raw lumber, clay, errors occurring in digital space, etc. (examples from presenter's studio practises). What we see while travelling through Google Maps streetview and whilst screening black and white pixelated imagery from a scanning electron microscope - is as material as the houses and people we experience and encounter on an 'actual' street; and the red blood cells extracted from the body, covered with a layer of platinum-cold solution to be hit by the beam of electrons... *Do we deal with translation? Or is it just another relation between our bodies and the world?*

Collectively we touched upon the questions about representation versus real; and discussed the potential of transformation. *Does the use of digital means change anything in these matters?* Just within the last decade, our abilities to look 'out there', to 'zoom in' into scales of particle matter, to connect and build networks, to create virtual bodies, has increased enormously. As we came to laugh: *it is all about the capacity to "enhance" our vision.* Digitality is a language! Perhaps the struggle here is to adapt the new substantial vocabulary; the 'unfamiliar' form of materiality. Yet we continue to expand the scope of narratives, to create new meanings and relationships between materiality, technology and ourselves.