

CONTEXT

The basis for the experiment is conceptually around the word *underground*. I have chosen to explore and experiment with the term in the metaphorical, context of that which is influential, but not immediately evident, hidden, invisible.

At my random location, one of the first things noticed was a graffiti sticker on metal buffer at base of a telegraph pole saying:



The sign was a gift of 'serendipity', advising me that my eyes may not be enough for this experiment. In context, where I saw boundaries, limitations and demarcations, perhaps there were none.

EXPERIMENT

I began with the hope to challenge perception in some way and explore any potential opening between two seemingly separate spaces /worlds. I came across an article by David Rokeby who stated that '*transformed reflections are a dialogue between the self and the world beyond*'.* As this was directly relevant to my line of enquiry, I decided to work with experiments in reflection as a starting point.

I set up 4 separate 'zones' of interactive reflection (through inverse, obverse and reverse) using mylar film in multiple planes and situations. Through variable light conditions, I came to notice, and remember, that the film was visually permeable in some installations. In processing this discovery, I saw further potential experimental value in exploring the perceptual difference between a 'closed system' (impermeable) and an 'open system' (permeable).

Further interactive experiments with multiple people opened up an interesting phenomenon. People would come close to the reflection of their own familiar faces, and while exploring the mild distortion of their own reflection in the film, become aware of the visual permeability, and that they were potentially 'up close and personal' to another student, doing the same thing on other side, through a thin film of 50 μ . They would happily continue to peer at 'the other' in their own reflection. Personal space did not appear to be violated with unknown others, even though their noses were almost touching as they intriguingly faced each other.

CONCLUSION

This experimental process has opened further fields for enquiry, and created more questions to be answered. As such, I feel the outcome is a *best creative solution* that has opened up other levels of exploration. In my current and continuing search of an access portal to the world below, and beyond.

* Rokeby, D. *Transforming Mirrors*, 1996. Very Nervous Systems. <http://www.davidrokeby.com/experience.html>