Frontispiece: Robert Smithson collecting obsidian in Mineral County, Nevada, 1968
Beyond Familiar Territory:
De-centering the Centre

(An analysis of visual strategies in the art of Robert Smithson, Alfredo Jaar and the Bark Petitions of Yirrkala)

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Dissertation
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
March, 1999
The analyses and interpretations presented in this Dissertation are my own, except where noted.

ManSchwarz

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Abstract

Beyond Familiar Territory researches various visual and conceptual strategies that facilitate connections between urban-based audiences and peripheral territories where the extraction of mineral resources occurs. The Dissertation is a comparative analysis of selected works by Robert Smithson, Alfredo Jaar, and the Bark Petitions of the Yirrkala people in North East Arnhem Land. The focus is on how these artists have endeavoured to challenge urban audiences, disrupt the perceived hierarchy between centre and periphery, and bridge gaps between urban sites of mineral consumption and overlooked sites of mineral extraction.

Beyond Familiar Territory takes the form of this Dissertation (33%), and an exhibition of works at the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) from 6 February to 21 March, 1999, which, together with the Studio Report, documents the outcome of the Studio Practice Component (67%).
Table of Contents

Abstract iii
Table of Contents iv
Table of Illustrations vi
Acknowledgments vii

Chapter 1. Introduction 1

Chapter 2. Robert Smithson: 9
The Centre-Periphery Dialectic 10
Setting the Foundation Stones 14
From “Sightseer” to “Site-seer” 19
  Site/Non-site Oberhausen 20
  Six Stops on a Section 23
  The Cayuga Rock Salt Mine Project 25
Conclusion 28

Chapter 3. Alfredo Jaar: Both Worlds at the Same Time 35
Introduction: Varyously Distributed 36
The Works
  Gold in the Morning, 1986 39
  Rushes, 1986-87 42
  (Un)Framed, 1987-91 43
  Frame of Mind, 1987 46
  Two or Three Things I Remember About Them, 1992 47
Conclusion 49
Table of Contents, continued

Chapter 4. The Petitions of the Yirrkala People 53
   Introduction: Not an Ordinary Petition 54
   The Yolngu Relation to Land Through Painting Designs 59
      An Intrinsic Connection of Belonging 59
      The Problem of Iconographic Analysis 66
         The Petition of 14 August, 1963 69
         The Petition of 28 August, 1963 71
         The 1968 Petition 72
   Significance of Relations Between Visual and Written Texts 74
      Some removed, yet not so removed, parallels 85
   Pride of Place? Site as context 87
   Conclusion 94

Chapter 5. Synthesis 106

Bibliography 109

Curriculum Vitae 114
Table of Illustrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>after page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Eugène von Guérard, <em>Ballarat</em>, 1853-54</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>George French Angas, <em>Ophir Diggings Summer Hill Creek</em>, 1851</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Site/Nonsite, Oberhausen</em>, Germany, 1968</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Six Stops On a Section</em>, 1968</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Six Stops on a Section</em>, 1968 (detail)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Mirror with Rock Salt</em> (Museum Proposal), 1968</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Robert Smithson on <em>Mirror Trail</em> at Cayuga Salt Mine Site, 1968</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Eight Unit Piece, Cayuga Salt Mine Project</em></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Robert Smithson, <em>Eight Unit Piece, Cayuga Salt Mine Project</em> (detail)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>Gold in the Morning</em>, 1986 (detail)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>Gold in the Morning</em>, 1986 (detail)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>Rushes</em>, 1986-87 (detail)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>(Un)Framed</em>, 1987-91</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>Frame of Mind</em>, 1987 (detail)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Alfredo Jaar, <em>Frame of Mind</em>, 1987 (detail)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Strip mining bauxite, Nhulunbuy, North East Arnhem Land, NT</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>The Bark Petition of 14 August, 1963, various artists, Yirrkala</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>The Bark Petition of 28 August, 1963, various artists, Yirrkala</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>The Bark Petition of 1968, Durndiwuy Wanambi, Yirrkala</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td><em>The Barunga Statement</em>, 1988, various artists</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Wandjuk Marika, goannas and bustards, 1982</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Mutitpuy Mununggurr, <em>The Feared Effects of Mining</em>, 1968</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments

I dedicate this thesis to the Yolngu painters of the Bark Petitions.

This four year long project would not have been possible without the help of many individuals and institutions. I will begin by thanking individuals at the Canberra School of Art. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Mary L. Roberts, Lecturer in the CSA Art Theory Department, and my advisors Nigel Lendon, Deputy Director and Graduate Convenor of the CSA, and Mr Gordon Bull, Head of the CSA’s Art Theory Department. From them I received solid commitment to the development of my thesis topics and plenty of encouragement along the way.

I would also like to thank: Professor Howard Morphy (Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU), Louise Dauth (Director, Parliamentary Art Collection), Dalma Dixon (Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Representatives), Peter Mason (Director of the Table, House of Representatives), Kim Beazley Sr, Dr John Stanton (Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia), and Ande Sombe (Faculty of Law, University of Trombose), and the Dept. of Indian and Northern Development, Ottawa. Special thanks to Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Arts Centre, Yirrkala, to Alfredo Jaar for sharing his work with me, Yothu Yindi for keeping my spirit alive, and to N’GIG for lively discussion on what is “Indian Art?”.

I acknowledge with gratitude the Government of Australia for the award of a Commonwealth Scholarship that enabled me to study in Australia. At this University of Victoria in Canada I am grateful for the support of Professor Elizabeth Tsoumasonis, Dr Victoria Wyatt, and Dr Astri Wright, all of the History in Art Department.

Last, but certainly not least, my family members. My ever supportive mother Anneke Schwarz, who taught me to see the beauty in the small things in life and, when I was a child, toured me through numerous art exhibitions. Also special thanks to my younger brother, Dr Niels Schwarz, who showed me that where there is a will there is a way, and my youngest brother, Steven Schwarz, who, also writing up his thesis, was burning the
midnight oil on the other side of the world. Also, my father, the late Dr Erik Jan Schwarz, who taught his children to delight in the marvels of the world.

I am grateful also to my parents-in-law, William and Patricia Wingate, who together have given me all their confidence in my often long-distance relationship with their son. I come now to my last and most indebted acknowledgment and it goes to my fellow adventurer in life, Dr Michael Wingate. Michael has stood by me every step of the way. He has also challenged me to no end. Thank you Michael.