



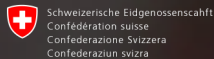
# WHAT LIES WITHIN

Centre of  
the Centre

Mel O'Callaghan  
Laurent Grasso  
Pamela Rosenkranz  
Suzanne Treister

**Study Guide:**  
**College Level**

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## **PRE-VISIT**

Have your class plan a seminar on the role of perception and intuition in daily life. Create exercises to enable participants to stay longer in perceptual awareness, getting in touch with their intuition.

Discuss what an altered state of consciousness is and its importance. Working with professionals, students can have activities that produce such altered states of consciousness. Have them share how the activities affected them.

## VISIT

Have the students observe the different breathing, movement and sound in the works of Mel O'Callaghan. Have them distinguish among normal breath sounds, and added sounds (for the breathing done by humans). Can they also hear the sounds from the vents? They can also mimic the breathing done.

Viewing the film, have the students determine the point of view used. Discuss why this point of view was used. While the use of the hyperspectral thermal camera was to visualize radiation, the usual application of such cameras are for mining and oil. In the context of the issues in the Northern Territories, how does Grasso's work "evolve instead of reflect upon" these.

Pamela Rosenkranz's work is a sculpture. It is also an installation. Discuss the relation between installation art and sculpture. Have them draw the silhouettes of the bottles. What do these silhouettes remind them of? Widely used in skincare, color cosmetics and haircare applications, silicone is made flesh-colored and replaces the liquid that used to be in the bottles. Does this work as a kind of metonymy? Why or why not?

*HFT The Gardener* mentions Adolf Wolfli and Ernst Haeckel. The latter made illustrations of animals and sea creatures, and is also known for bringing to extreme possible conclusions based on available evidence. Wolfli was an artist associated with outsider art who made intricate and complex images. Can the students determine the two artists' influence on the work of HFT? In the story, the artworks were sold out. How do you think an art dealer would have pitched the works so that collectors will buy them? You can discuss the art market and the factors that affect this.

## POST-VISIT

Before there was life, there were minerals and rocks on Earth. Have them look at the minerals found, preserved and studied by scientists in their locale. How were these found, preserved and studied? The question raised by scientist Robert Hazen can be asked again: What aspects of mineral preservation bias our interpretation of the past?

Grasso's work has been compared to Roger Caillois's research into 'diagonal science'. What is diagonal science? Have them create experiments with diagonal science and present their findings.

You can assign for further reading and discussion the ff books which Suzanne Treister referred to: Flash Boys by Michael Lewis, The Fear Index by Robert Harris, books on Vint Cerf. Treister also created a movement/project called Post-Surveillance Art. Have the students look into those who were part of this (if any), and works produced (if any). A discussion on art history can go into the production and reception of new media work.

Invite philosophers to elaborate on Eliminative Materialism and Speculative Realism. Rosenkranz's work looks at the way nature has been packaged by humans, particularly for health and fitness. Have students look at the claims of these ads. She also plays on the idea of the presence and absence of the body in her works. Have the students create a chart tracing how the body has appeared and disappeared as subject in art, and the conditions that made these possible.