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Social Awareness about Pedophiles through the Artworks of Graham Ovenden and Patricia Piccinini

Jesus Cruz

Abstract

In this paper, I will examine how contemporary artists in England and Australia address the psychopathology and known personality traits of pedophiles. It will explore the notion of pedophilia in each society, necessary steps of action in order to confront the issue and address community safety, such as mental health counsel for pedophiles and sex offenders and government enactment such as sex offender registries. Following, the examination of how contemporary English painter Graham Ovenden and the hyper-realistic multi-media Australian artist Patricia Piccinini address the issue of pedophilia in their respective societies. Many of Ovenden's artworks have been ordered to be destroyed by court order on the grounds of indecency. A convicted pedophile in the jurisdiction of England, Ovenden's work contains instances of child nudity and portraits that are deemed sexually alluring. Patricia Piccinini's hyper-realistic 3-D artworks portray figures of children being coddled, soothed, and otherwise interacting with figures which resemble otherworldly animals, or simply put, monsters. Her work captures the innocent essence of the child within opportunistic adult-child relationships. This research will make use of academic and peer-reviewed journals and periodicals as well as utilize the presented artwork as primary sources. The goal of this paper will be to address the psychopathology of pedophiles and methods to reduce sexual recidivism.

To buy or not to buy: Exploration of Historical and Contemporary Implications of Visual Media and the Formation of Identity

Ryan Addis

Abstract

The medium of digital media and print such as movies, television, books and magazines among others, has historically played an integral role in the construction of individual identity formation on a global scale. Identity is defined as being the fact of being who or what a person or thing is. This research examines the history of visual media and how it has shaped and molded our own views of ourselves through research and art making. Using historical and contemporary artworks by artists who use identity as a theme in their work; I created artwork that is informed by historical approaches of visual media and appropriated present day use of digital media. I looked at contemporary artists such as Michael Reeder who is exploring the subject of identity. His work exudes an ambiguity and with that comes thought provocation, as he wants the viewer to question the sense of self. By referencing the current field of New Media arts, I have developed contemporary artworks that have been inspired by visual media used to influence identity development. With the use of contemporary advancements such as Photoshop and canvas printing, I have been able to create artwork that fits within the contemporary art discussion. This study has helped me better understand how identity is created on a global scale and better develop my own artistic practice.