

Dialogue session

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Somewhere in-between design studies and craft practice.

Abstract

A research project in the field of South African craft and design offers an opportunity to respond to and with the theme of means and methods for *making-with* the future. A narrative cartography including images and quotations is used to guide a non-linear and multi-perspectival view of situated, generative activities in response to threats and challenges experienced by South African craft practitioners operating in globalised digital economies. In framing this conversation, inspiration is taken from Haraway (2016) who looks not to the past for “reconciliation or restoration” but to a present “becoming-with each other in “response-ability”, in anticipation of a “still possible recuperation” (2016:10). Findings indicate that there are touchpoints between craft practice, design studies and African philosophy that could anticipate alternative, resilient economic models for South African craft enterprises. Findings from the research are discussed and recommendations are made-with questions regarding nomadic and care-full approaches to sustainable craft futures.

Keywords: South African craft, resilient, design, nomadic