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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Thing Is All Around Itself

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Visual Arts

by

Hermione Florence Spriggs

Committee in charge:

Professor Teddy Cruz, Chair
Professor Jennifer Pastor, Co-Chair
Professor Benjamin Bratton
Professor Norman Bryson
Professor Anthony Burr

2014

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Co-Chair

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2014

as long as there have been biologists, they have sought out islands to keep profusion from making them crazy. Islands are generalizations of a kind. Explanatory models. And where there are no islands, we have to invent them. If only for the fun of it.

Fredrik Sjoberg, 'The Fly Trap'

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Thing Is All Around Itself

by

Hermione Florence Spriggs

Master of Fine Arts

Univerisy of Claifornia, San Diego, 2014

Professor Teddy Cruz, Chair
Professor Jennifer Pastor, Co-Chair

What happens when a body of knowledge returns to the body from which it took off? What does it mean to study life through it's carcass?

THE THING IS ALL AROUND ITSELF considers an 'island' from the perspective of Malaise, a flying insect trap that mimics the form of a human tent. The Malaise trap acts to passively involve insects by intercepting their flight path before funneling them into a bottle-neck chamber. This Thesis explores trap-setting as an alternative paradigm for artistic process, whilst the trap produced then functions as a non-euclidean frame through which to view the world – a klein-bottle space in which inside is always out.