



Attention video artists and filmmakers: Do you have old video works sitting in your studio going nowhere? Exhibition copies that have become unwatchable due to format drift? Student works that haven't seen the light of day?

## I WANT YOUR... VIDEO ART!

Bring me your tired beta cams, your poor mini DV tapes, your huddled DVDs, yearning to be inserted in play decks once more. Send the wretched refuse of your LaCie drives, plastic tubs and steel shelving units to me, that they may play another day.

Video Art Video Shop is a pop-up library that collects the unwanted, unloved and unseen video art and experimental film projects of artists that are collecting dust on shelves and in personal archives. As the head librarian, I will lovingly ingest these items into my temporary library, symbolically re-instating them into the art historical archive, before offering them to the public for redistribution. Visitors to the library can not only view these little-seen works, but take them home. In exchange, I only ask that they allow me to follow up in one year's time to find out what they did with their loans - whether they simply sat on another shelf gathering other dust; whether the work was re-used or re-mixed into new artworks; whether it was screened and shared with others; or whether something more unlikely became of it...

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Video Art Video Shop will happen at The Capitol at RMIT in the second half of 2020.

## The Artist

Jessie Scott is a practising video artist, writer, programmer and producer who works across the spectrum of screen culture in Melbourne. She is a founding member of audio-visual art collective Tape Projects, and in 2013 she co-directed and founded Channels Video Art Festival. Jessie's video and photography work concern the affective fabric connecting place, community and the built environment. She is currently completing a practice-led PhD about the relationship between video shops and artistic communities, with the support of a Vice Chancellor's Scholarship, at RMIT University in the School of Art.

## Project Background

This pop-up video library is part of Jessie Scott's PhD project - "Video Libraries: Forgotten but not gone". The video shop, ubiquitous fixture of the home entertainment ecosystem for over 30 years, is now obsolete. As Netflix's reign has proven supreme, the torrent of video shop closures has slowed to a trickle. The majors have left town or morphed into faceless DVD dispensers in supermarkets and malls. With the swift passing of this era, we barely have the opportunity to stop and ask - what was the video library? Scott's practice-led PhD project uses a range of documentary and participatory artistic strategies to investigate the relationship between artistic communities and video libraries (both commercial and institutional) as well as what the model of a video library has to offer artists and citizens in an algorithmic-driven present and future.

## FAQ - SUBMISSIONS

- Steps: 1. Download a submission form and read carefully 2. Send or drop off your work 3. Email me your completed submission form to confirm you have submitted
- I will be collecting submissions right up to the occupation period of the library in the second half of 2020. They can be dropped directly to me on site, sent in the mail (contact me at [jesspicable@gmail.com](mailto:jesspicable@gmail.com) for details) or left in the submissions drop box located at RMIT School of Art offices - Building 24, Level 1 Room 3, 124 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. The office is open 10am – 5pm weekdays.
- Please read through the Participant Information and Consent Form carefully. As this is a research project, I must seek informed consent from all participants to take part.

Please feel free to ask any questions you are not sure about. You can rescind consent at a later date if you change your mind, just get in touch via email.

- If you submit your work to the project, I cannot guarantee that your work will be returned to you. Visitors to the library are able to take items home with them, with no guarantee of return. You can elect to have your work returned if possible on your submission form, but again, it is not guaranteed. If your work has not been taken by the end of the project and you have ticked the relevant box, I will contact you to organise the return of your item.
- I will do my best to make sure all works are viewable in the library. Please let me know ASAP if you have analog formats as it might take a little time to organise players.

# Submission Form

## Video Art Video Shop

Name

Date

Email

Submission Title

Duration

Medium

Format (if different)

Year

Any notes or information about this work you would like to share?

Would you like to have the work returned to you (if possible) at the end of the project?

Have you read the Research Ethics Participant Information and Consent Form?

How did you find out about Video Art Video Shop?

## Participant Information Sheet

<b>Title</b>	VHS Libraries – Forgotten but not gone
<b>Principal Research Student(s)</b>	Jessica Scott

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### What does my participation involve?

#### 1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in this research project, which is called VHS Libraries – Forgotten but not gone. You have been invited to take part in this public, drop-in, participatory art project - Video Art Video Shop - as an interested member of the public and/or artistic community.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide after reading this, to take part in the activities of the research, your consent will be implied.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Form to keep.

#### 2 What is the purpose of this research?

This research is being undertaken as part of a PhD at RMIT University. It is a practice-based research project in the School of Art, and is about the role of video libraries (both commercial and institutional) in artistic communities.

The outcomes of the project will be comprised of a body of artistic works and a written exegesis.

The project aims to map the historical moment of the video lending library as a model of media distribution that was short lived but very influential on our culture, in particular in relation to artistic practice. While there have been a number of popular and academic studies of the "video shop effect" on culture in the USA, there is little research related to the Australian context. The project aims to address this gap.

As part of this project Jessica Scott will be creating a series of pop-up exhibitions or events that recreate and experiment with some of the conditions of video lending libraries. Visitors to these events will have the option to view the participatory, durational artworks as they unfold, as well as contribute their thoughts, ideas and recollections to them. Some of these contributions will be documented and put into context with media theory, other scholarly and artistic projects in the field and used as material for new artworks.

The results of this research will be used by the researcher Jessica Scott to obtain a PhD degree.

This research is being sponsored by a Vice Chancellor's Scholarship for the duration of the PhD.

### **3 What does participation in this research involve?**

Participation in this research involves donating old video artworks to a pop-up live art event produced by Jessica Scott, and allowing them to be loaned by other participants in the work. Some participants will be asked to leave their contact details and consent to a follow up contact 1 year after the end of the pop-up event.

Consent to take part in any of the activities will be obtained verbally and by implication, on-site, on the day of the event.

The material contributed by participants may be used in the following ways:

- as a source material for the written component (exegesis) of the PhD
- as a source material for the practice-based part of the PhD (art work)
- as research material for either written or practice based components, where it will not be reproduced in an identifiable way but will serve as background to the research and be foot-noted as a source.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, you may be reimbursed for any reasonable travel, parking, meals and other expenses associated with the research project visit.

### **4 Other relevant information about the research project**

As this project is an extension of an earlier work by the researcher Jessica Scott, there has already been one iteration of the pop-up video library completed, and there are multiple further iterations planned.

### **5 Do I have to take part in this research project?**

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

Before taking part in the research you will be given this Participant Information Form to read and take home to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University.

### **6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, you may appreciate contributing to knowledge. Possible benefits may include contributing to a greater understanding and appreciation of the role of video lending libraries in our culture at large.

### **7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

We do not anticipate there to be any significant risks or disadvantages from taking part in this research. However, if you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, members of the research team will be able to discuss appropriate support for you.

## **8 What if I withdraw from this research project?**

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, you may simply leave the venue of the pop-up event at any time.

## **9 What happens when the research project ends?**

If you wish to be kept inform of project outcomes, or participate in further events, your contact details will be kept on file, and if and when such opportunities or events arise, you will be notified.

Potential outcomes include:

- written exegesis held in the RMIT library
- written publications in subscription-based journals
- written publications in open journals or magazines
- artworks displayed in galleries

## **How is the research project being conducted?**

### **10 What will happen to information about me?**

Data collected during the pop-up events will be anonymous.

The data is stored on the local computer drives of the researcher as well on the researcher's RMIT-based remote desktop (private, not publicly accessible)

Only the researcher and her supervisors will have access to the raw data.

Research data will be kept for at least 5 years on RMIT servers as per RMIT's research data retention policy.

The participant is only being asked for consent to use their data for this project. If it were to be repurposed for any future project, further consent would be required and sought.

By participating in one of the pop-up events, your consent for the research team to collect and use information from you for the research project is implied.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is to protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

### **11 Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research project is being conducted by Jessica Scott

### **12 Who has reviewed the research project?**

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

### **13 Further information and who to contact**

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researcher on:

### Research contact person

Name	Jessica Scott
Position	PhD Student
Telephone	0468627063
Email	S2009906@student.rmit.edu.au

Name	Martine Corompt
Position	Chief Investigator
Email	Martine.Corompt@rmit.edu.au
Name	Ben Byrne
Position	Secondary Supervisor
Email	Ben.Byrne@rmit.edu.au

### 14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Peter Burke
Telephone	03 9925 2251
Email	human.ethics@rmit.edu.au
Mailing address	Research Ethics Co-ordinator Research Integrity Governance and Systems RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001