

## Office/Surface/Tension

Text for Tensegrity Symposium

Emily Rosamond, 2016

One flick, one unclasp of a held hand, one unremembered deadline and the whole enterprise shudders. Everyone in the network shuffles, grumbles, starts and stops. Low-grade shockwaves emanate from a slipped click. In an avalanche of email, in an old surgery, the office whips up a confection called higher education. My office, I've been told, used to be the morgue. A man murdered with an adze had been laid out there, right in between what are now three desks, boxes full of marked assignments, promotional material, memos and a stained grey carpet. The students come in pairs to discuss their projects. Doors open and close in a contracted choreography of kindness, weakness, efficiencies and stumbling blocks. Different kinds of mildness, bitterness, wistfulness and irritation gather in the air.

To fabricate education in this buzz of email/office paper/protocol/old surgery walls is to look into the middle distance. Looking past currents of comings and goings, looking past buried flows of blissful idiot-narrativity that hold you to the place, clambering the paper-sphere. Becoming a pillar, of sorts, by virtue of inhabiting another time signature, even as the slipped clicks and missed deadlines tug on one another.

No one is irreplaceable, but everyone holds together the surface tension of the office with a singular mix of affects, rhythms, mentalities, desires and presuppositions. A precise way of cutting the air with a question. Carrying a question that stays you to the space, that keeps your grip on this tight tense divining wheel dangling on threads.

Bio: Emily Rosamond is a Canadian artist, writer and educator. She is a Lecturer in Fine Art Theory at the Arts University Bournemouth. Previously, she was a Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Kent and an Associate Lecturer at Goldsmiths. She completed her PhD in Art in 2016 at Goldsmiths, where she held a Commonwealth Scholarship. Her doctoral work focused on character as a prominent speculative, representational logic of personhood in an era of predictive analytics.

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