Making our way in semi-obscurity

Dr. Jorella Andrews
Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths
Making our way in semi-obscurity
... the philosopher knows very well that, whatever be his effort, in the best of cases it will take its place among the artefacts and products of culture, as an instance of them. If this paradox is not an impossibility, and if philosophy can speak, it is because language is not only the depository of fixed and acquired significations ...
… because its cumulative power itself results from a power of anticipation or of prepossession, because one speaks not only of what one knows, so as to set out a display of it – but also of what one does not know, in order to know it …
... and because language in forming itself expresses, at least laterally, an ontogenesis of which it is a part ... the words most charged with philosophy are not necessarily those that contain what they say, but rather those that most energetically open upon Being, because they more closely convey the life of the whole and make our habitual evidences vibrate until they disjoin.

We will come to these questions by starting ‘from below’.

Perception: “this interrogative thought which lets the perceived world be rather than posits it, before which the things form and undo themselves in a sort of gliding, beneath the yes and the no.”

It is … a question put to what does not speak

It directs this question to our mute life

It addresses itself to that compound of the world and of ourselves that precedes reflection

Phenomenological method “is a matter of describing, not of explaining or analysing”.

The hermeneutic decolonising circle in phenomenological research

- Encounter with the research material
- Fore-understanding of reader/researcher
- Decolonising revision of fore-understanding

The hermeneutic decolonising circle in phenomenological research
Developing pre-critical phenomenological research strategies
Description
Transcription
Ekphrasis
Paraphrase
Enactment / Performance
Mapping / Drawing
Listing
[...]
Potential actions words: a starter list

ADD / SUBTRACT

CROP / FOCUS/ SELECT / isolate

SCALE / bigger / smaller

MULTIPLY / Repeat (part or all)

Organic / Geometric ; curvy / straight ; ellipses / boxes

CONTRAST - intense / calm ; light / dark ; big / small

2d / 3d

frame / composition

EXPLODE / parts / deconstruct


TIME / prequel / sequel / History / movement / o’clock (light and shadows)
Add / Subtract / Crop / Focus / Select / Isolate
Scale / Size (Bigger/Smaller)
Multiply / Repeat (part or all)
Organic / Geometric
Contrast: intense/calm; light/dark/ big/small
2D / 3D
Frame / Composition
Explode / Parts / Deconstruct
TIME / prequel / sequel / history / movement / o’clock / light & shadow

[...]