

13 HERE YOU ARE GRACE KINGSTON

7-19TH of October

Here You Are
David Greenhalgh

Grace Kingston's *Here You Are* is a confronting dissection of digital, social actions. Socialising entertainment has rapidly changed over the past few decades, taking us from an older analog entertainment where performers fed viewers to our current age, the age of the *wiki-*. This new age is fed not by an exclusive, authoritative source for news, entertainment, media and other information. The *wiki-* age is driven by us. We broadcast the news, we provide the entertainment, we share the media. This incredible way of being has meant that our socialization and social life has become distinctly futuristic with both new governing rules and a new platform. It is fascinating that while our social lives have been fast-tracked to the future, part of it needs to remain grounded. We cultivate online identities but only successfully when this identity is seen to be IRL (in real life).

Grace Kingston acts like a digital anthropologist for our current age. In *Here You Are* she has taken one of the most distinct elements of digital social media, the 'check-in' and explored its ramifications.

The check-in is for the author self-serving: a statement of real-world interaction of 'being seen', whether this is at an institution, location or country that speaks of a worldliness, a personality trait, or hobby. For the viewer of the check-in, it is a reinforcement of social mores and an opportunity for voyeurism or perhaps surveillance. Facebook has become a personal panopticon. The ease with which these check-ins can be accessed and collated is disturbing- despite the information being made public we still feel like only our closer companions are witness to it. This is what Grace Kingston has powerfully done, she has partaken in one of the most powerful acts of our digital world and data-mined. This intrusive act we are all subject to without much knowledge of it happening. Highlighting the ease and frequency of this act her friends check-ins within a kilometer radius of Archive_ are now broadcast in foot-high letters across an obnoxious LED screen. This repackaging is poignant. Our check-ins are misrepresented in size 12 font on a personal computer. The most appropriate form for our social media engagements has not been put so aptly before, *Here You Are* announces the reality of Us as self-advertisers.

arts and culture

MARRICKVILLE council

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1. **PLACE** – Check-in map of Newtown, 4th of October 2013



Here You Are is a project based on data collected from Facebook check-ins; I monitored the check-ins of my friends to discover the places people wanted to be 'seen' at. To help me achieve this I collaborated with Google/Spotify programmer Nic Cope, who designed a web based program collating data from AppEngine, Python, Twitter Bootstrap, and the Facebook Graph API that allowed me to monitor every check-in ever made from the people within my friend's feed. The installation is geographically aligned with the area and based on a to-scale map of a 1km radius of the gallery, in which 1cm = 1m. The drop pins are positioned as to the number of check-ins at each location, where 1cm = 1 check-in, for example, Thai Riffic received 7 check-ins, so is positioned 7cm from the floor. The data was hand counted to exclude duplicates, and collate any doubled-up venue locations, for example, there were separate entries for the ZanziBar and their event, Birdcage. I wanted to create a new topographical map to investigate the landscape of 'cool' within the area.

POA

Drop pin small sculptures are available for separate purchase, they are hand cast resin objects, hand painted and personalised to the buyer, allowing you to locate yourself, wherever you are, without technology.

\$50, edition of 50.

2. **TEXT** – Scrolling LED of check-in statuses



The scrolling LED sign features anonymous check-in statuses from my Facebook friend feed. Separated from their usual online context the writings appear as humorous and absurd, parodying the self-advertising nature that identity crafting on social media encourages. I have amplified this absurdity by using clashing colours, kitsch fonts and turning the sign's brightness up to its maximum capacity.

\$1,900

3. **PICTURE** – Selfies 1, 2 & 3

These pictures were taken at the three most checked-in places in Newtown, at the most checked-in time. Aiming to embody the spirit of these establishments by impersonating the other patrons in the most common kind of photograph accompanying check-ins, the selfie. They have been edited with typical Instagram filters and printed on glass, as these kinds of images are usually viewed through a glass covered device like a mobile, tablet or computer.

4. Selfie #1 – The Courthouse Hotel, 10-11pm, Friday, September 20th 2013



5. Selfie #2 – The ZanziBar, Birdcage, 12-1am, Wednesday, September 18th 2013



6. Selfie #3 – The Town Hall Hotel, election night, 11pm – 12am, Saturday, September 7th 2013



\$950 each, \$2,500 for set of three

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