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OUTLINE GRADUATION THESIS - 25-02-2012

LENS BASED DIGITAL MEDIA - PIET ZWART INSTITUTE

**THE NATURAL ROOM** - A RESEARCH ON STAGING SCENERY

ON THE BASIS OF A SET DESIGN FOR THE PLAY *LITTLE EYOLF* BY HENRIK IBSEN

The question that initiated my research is how can I as theatre designer create the experience of an outside space within the theatre room. I want to create a wide, open space, which extends beyond any visible walls.

The centre of my attention in this research is the perspectives on nature in art. I shall elaborate how artists and set designers brought the natural world and the landscape into the closed space of the gallery or the theatre. Further, I would like to look at examples of artists moving away from the conventional art space, to the outside.

I will investigate which concepts of nature inspired the movement of the Romantic Tradition, and compare their representation of nature with that of modern painters like Rothko, Mondriaan or Newman.

An analysis of the aesthetic of the sublime shall demonstrate the role of nature and the elements in relation with spirituality.

The main practical outcome will be the stage design for a Dutch theatre production of Henrik Ibsen's *Little Eyolf* (1894). In this design I will focus on fog and clouds as the main elements. With the help of projected moving images I want to add a vibrating and twitching rhythm to the space.

By using the same tools as for the theatre production, I shall then explore the possible ways of presentations at the end exam show. It could be an installation for only one person to enter at the time, or a book, or a DVD to take home, or an audio file to listen to while walking at the beach.

Bibliography (Annotated bibliography to follow):

Rosenblum, Robert, *Modern Painting and the Northern Romantic Tradition: Friedrich to Rothko* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1975)

Burke, Edmund, "A Philosophical Enquiry into the Sublime and Beautiful and Other Pre-Revolutionary Writings" (London: Penguin Books, 1998)

Lyotard, Jean-Francois, „Newman: The Instant“ in *The Inhuman* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988)

McFarlane, James, ed., *Henrik Ibsen: Penguin Critical Anthologies* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970).