

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Knowledge through Photography

Ms Robyn Stacey from the School of Communication Arts together with the Historic Houses Trust of NSW has been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to research important aspects of the nationally and internationally significant Historic Houses Trust and the Caroline Simpson collection.

'This research project will be the first time that the relationships between the collection of objects, soft furnishings, floor and wall coverings, catalogues and sample books relating to all aspects of domestic life of the Trust properties and the Caroline Simpson collection will be explored and interpreted, enabling new associations to be developed between the properties and the material collection', says Ms Stacey. 'This project is of significance as it will explore the potential application of sophisticated photographic and visual design techniques in the representation of knowledge.'

Particular artefacts and specific architectural features will be selected for photography based on field research and the context developed through historical research and a range of visual communication design techniques. A Hasselblad medium-format camera with a 22 mega-pixel digital back will be used to reveal the detail and fine craftsmanship of both the architecture of the houses and the objects in the collection. Strategies will then be developed to re-present this historic material in a visual contemporary way promoting this significant collection and the cultural history it represents to the general public.

The photographic and digital outcomes will enable new associations to be made between the architectural "place" of specific Trust properties,



Detail from photograph: Robyn Stacey

their family histories, and the material culture of the homes and the Caroline Simpson Collection. It will be compiled into a number of high profile exhibitions and a prestigious publication.

Project Title: Illuminating Interiors (Investigations into nineteenth century domestic life in NSW)

Funding has been set at: \$20,000

Contact Details: r.stacey@uws.edu.au,
<http://www.uws.edu.au/school/commarts>
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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/ors/funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants