

## WENDY CLARKE

### DISSONANCE

Perception of any given situation is a fluid state. For some, the casual indifference of others heightens loneliness or alienation. Social ineptitude, trauma or unwelcome lifestyle changes are some of the factors that can lead to a sense of unreality or not belonging.

One coping mechanism to alleviate stress is to dissociate. Cultural or cognitive dissonance could be mild detachment like a daydream to more severe physical and emotional experience leading to an altered state of awareness.

This work explores the constructed realities surrounding an individual who is experiencing a fractured existence. By limiting the picture taking process to the infrared spectrum, and partially inverting in post-processing; the environment is presented as a discordant reality. In this manipulated environment is a person who is further dissociated from their surrounding as a consequence of their nudity and through the employment of disparate media so that person is part of, yet not fully immersed in the image. Rather the individual is on a separate plane.

Wendy Clarke is an artist and educator living and working in Christchurch, New Zealand. Originally studying fine art at Glasgow art school then honours in Photography at Westminster University and a masters with distinction in media arts from Coventry University. The marriage of fine arts and photography is reflected in the range of media and materials that Wendy uses to create her artworks.