

## **Stephen Haley**

Brief/Working title of proposal:

Beyond Reflection: In the MirrorLand

Summary of proposal:

I will research the State Library of Victoria's images and historical accounts to create a large scale, virtual, projected space and a series of 'virtual' photographic prints.

How this project aims to explore new thinking:

This project will explore the new ways of thinking about new media technologies, the experience of colonisation, the construction of contemporary Western space and explore the possibilities of the new computer based media.

The project will build on the research undertaken during my PhD. In that work, I considered the planar glass mirror (only common by the 19th century) as a 'metasign' capable of examining contemporary Western culture. There I argued that both the mechanics of the mirror and its poetics, have determined the arrangement of both actual and visual space in the West. This space is perspectival, rational and repetitive. In recent times, 3D modelling programs have emulated this mirror space and, in turn, are the basis on which this space is further designed in a spiral of reflected reflections.

Beyond notions of reflection, we now inhabit a mirror space – a heterotopic space of dislocation. In a 'new world', colonised countries such as Australia, this disconnect between the natural space and our reconfigurations of it are most keenly felt and most recently demonstrated in various environmental collapses.