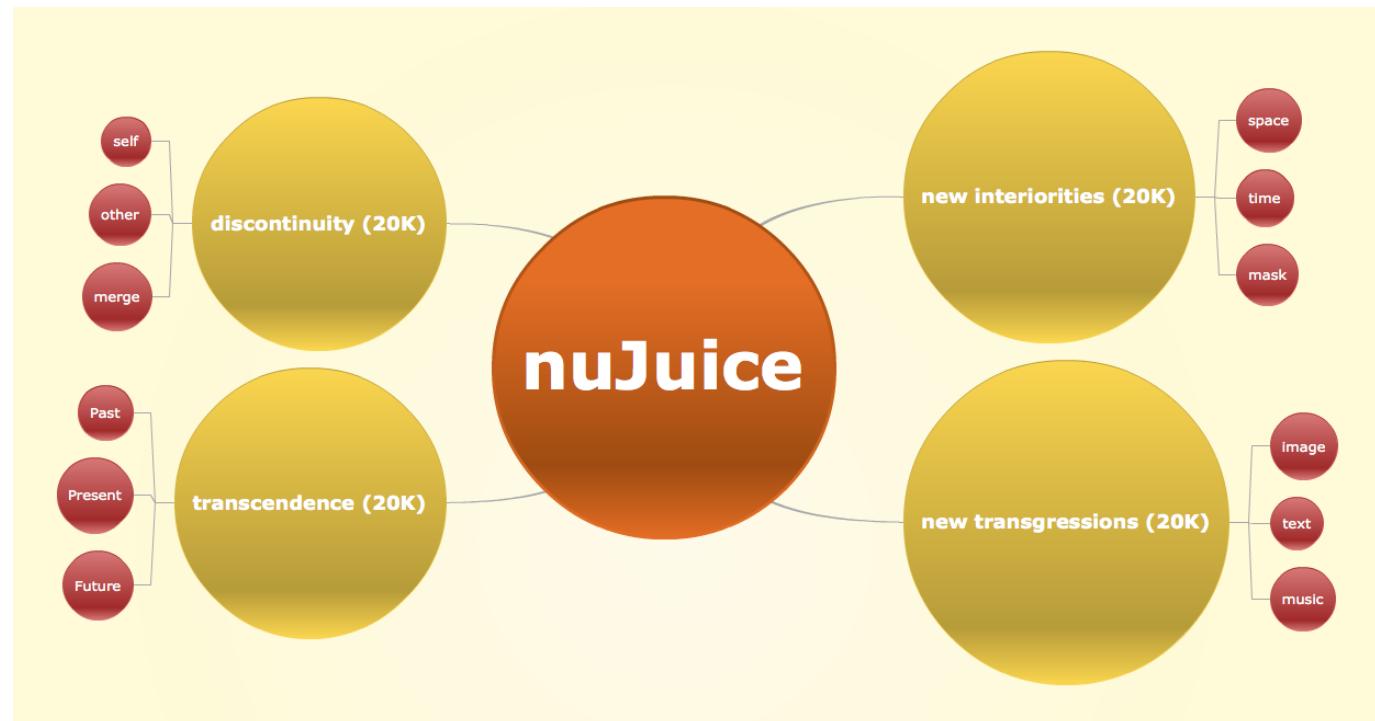


Schema for Creative Writing Research

from my RDB2

My practice-led research will explore if eroticism, as defined by Bataille, Barthes and Foucault might be reformulated in a contemporary context. If, perhaps, there are real transgressions, not of a public nature but of the self and other, that can enable a space for some new form of eroticism. The critical portion of my research will examine earlier concepts of eroticism, transgression, and resistance to language, and postulate what new eroticisms, new transgressions and resistances are possible.



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Format Rationale

I know that XXXX expressed some concern in my choice of format for the creative writing portion of my project. I understand that in many genres of literature, the short story doesn't command much market presence, but it still does in the Erotica genre. So, from a commercial point of view, I think a single-author anthology of short stories is viable.

Meanwhile, if you peruse my provisional section and story titles, it needs to be acknowledged that this probably won't fit comfortably within the genre anyway. At the moment, with the literary status and expectations of the genre are being driven by 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and its knock-offs, I'm probably going to have to find a more esoteric indie publisher for this anyway. I think Cleis Publishing might accept it.

I think the short story format works best for this creative research practice for a few reasons:

1. Both Bataille and Barthes describe transcendent erotic experience as a fleeting one. Although I strongly feel the erotic moment must be contextualized in the narrative, I feel the short story format better accommodates what I'm setting out to achieve.
2. Eroticism is an interior experience. Having a cast of many characters can dilute the interiority, the almost claustrophobic quality, of powerful erotic narrative. I think this is why the format has endured for this genre.

3. A longer format would traditionally necessitate a broader story-arc. In erotica, this typically requires a love story. Although I am not anti-romance, I feel that such an accessible arc might overshadow the themes I want to highlight.

4. The way I propose to address the various intersections between eroticism and loss of public space, the ubiquity of explicit sexual content, and the erosion of traditional transgressions lend themselves well to the short format. Most importantly, the issue of language resistance is going to require an experimental writing style. Most readers find it hard to sustain their engagement with that in longer novel forms.

5. Although I have written a couple of novels, my strength as a writer is in the short story format. This is where I know I can do my best work.

6. With the rise of digital publishing, the need for standardized publication lengths is not nearly the issue it once was.

Please let me know if you feel my reasoning on this is flawed.

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New Interiorities

Tourist

Alien geographies as fetish / fetish as alien geographies.

A Wrinkle in Time

Exploring the eroticism of the expending time; wasting time. The excess of time uncounted. Time as body art.

Login As Guest

Exploring the eroticism of being anonymous; of being uncounted; of being lost in the sea of data.

The stories in this section will be examining alternate private spaces, resistance to exposure by getting lost in the crowd. How the choice of the object of desire reflects upon the self.

New Transgressions

Blind

Exploring the eroticism of disrupting gaze

The stories in this section examine post-modern transgressions: imagelessness, nonperformance and the refusal of valuation. Psychoanalytically, I'm exploring the interruption of gaze, and the instability of language at the edge of the Real.

Autocorrect

Exploring the eroticism of unintelligibility; of asemiosis.

Remainders

Exploring the eroticism of resistance to valuation.

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Discontinuities

Tap Cam

Exploration of eroticism of fluid identities, mixing identities.

Hole

Exploration of the eroticism of alterity. The Other as inconceivable.

Sucked In

Exploration of the fear and lure of subsummation. The power dynamics of the eclipse of self.

*The stories in this section explore ruptures of selfhood, in terms of race and nationality, the absence of gender as void and the exquisite fear of being swallowed up. (**Tap Cam** is the Vietnamese term for dishes containing leftovers or an unidentifiable mixture of whatever is available. It's also pejorative slang for someone fathered by an American soldier during the Vietnam War - especially Asian/Black mixed-race children.) Psychoanalytically, I'm investigating the construction of the self and other/Other.*

Transcendence

I will have gone by then

Exploration of the eroticism of memory and the nostalgia of suffering. The unreality of remembered pasts.

The stories in this part consider alternative forms of transcendence. Erotic escape into memory, the paradoxical loop of the immediate and the masochistic pleasures of deferral. Explores the instability of language and perceptions of reality in proximity to the Real.

Spooling

Exploration of how the immediacy of desire is always aimed at some future moment, and must always be recounted as a passed event. In between is a kind of transcendent waiting-to-be-now.

Soon

The transcendent experience of pleasure deferred.