Fiona Davies

My current work is a three year, cross disciplinary, project called, Blood on Silk, collaborating with Dr Peter Domachuk, ARC Postdoctoral fellow, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Dr Lee Anne Hall, UTS, a writer, and myself.

The cross-disciplinary collaboration arose from an accidental intersection when I undertook an installation in the foyer of the School of Physics in 2010. That work titled *Memorial / Double Pump Laplace II,* was the second in a series of three, site-specific installations, loosely based on narratives from the dying and death of my father, in 2001, located in architectural spaces important in how Dad defined himself. In this work I use narratives of blood - transfusion, testing and sampling.  While I was developing this work I became aware of Domachuk's research project which adds new layers through the study of silk implantable microchips to allow real time measurement of the properties of blood while that blood is still circulating within the body. These silk microchips are refined, transparent and dissolvable therefore disposable - a biophotonic chip.

In that work is the idea that within the body's circulatory system relatively impermeable membranes are often selectively permeable; objects make their own way where they choose and in their own time. The materials used in the work also function as membranes that separate, allowing some things to pass and some to be caught or retained. The silk cover is translucent rather than perfectly transparent as in the microchips and so limits the amount of visual information that is allowed to pass.

Within the collaboration we will be looking at a whole range of scientific, cultural, economic, technological, architectural and aesthetic intersections and exchanges; - from the materiality of silk, the cultural history of silk; 'silk routes' pathways of exchange; the materiality of the refined silk / fibrion, transparent, castable or mouldable; its water content and method of drying drives dissolvability and disposability; through to human rights issues arising from other uses of implantable chips; issues of surveillance or monitoring.