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Modelling Affective Labour: On Terry Richardson's Photography

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Abstract:

Photographer Terry Richardson works in a digital aesthetic vernacular that looks more to underground hardcore pornography of yesteryear than traditions associated with the institutionalisation of erotica, as associated with *Playboy*. And yet his images, in *Kibosh* and *Terryworld*, anticipate the contemporary public recalibration of ideas of intimacy as associated with Social Media, tally with contested ideas of the sexualisation of female empowerment as associated with contested elements of Third Wave Feminism, and can be read as a contemporary phase of Antonio Negri's theory of art and immaterial labour in their evidencing of the affective labour on the part of the photographer himself. This critical commentary, the first such academic writing on Richardson, explores his work in these contexts, and considers Richardson's return to the figure (over abstraction) as evidencing and exploring of the nature of work, and the nascent eroticisation of working relations, under Western neoliberal regimes.

Keywords:

Terry Richardson, digital photography, pornography, neoliberalism, Antonio Negri

The Terry Look

An antique “porn chic” unifies, seemingly, the majority of photographer Terry Richardson’s output – work which covers straight portraiture (for magazines, as collected in books, and via his website, as linked across numerous social media platforms), reportage, in-studio videos (often of shoots with models), music promos, architectural photography (the Hollywood sex industry locales of the 2012 collection *Terrywood*), and even, revealingly and unapologetically, elements of Richardson merchandise. On the latter, it is possible to purchase, presumably as a humorous gift, the “Terry Richardson Plastic Camera” set: the plastic camera itself, a black t-shirt, and Richardson-style glasses.¹ The knowing nature of the joke, in relation to the plastic camera, is that Richardson seems to prefer, as evidenced in his photos, off-the-shelf rather than professional equipment and, more importantly, revels in the resultant contradiction of being a name photographer wielding amateur and so relatively inexpensive equipment. The results of this choice are characteristic of Richardson’s work and are achieved via his deployment of an inbuilt (rather than detachable) flash. This splays a caustic light across his subjects, flattening features and, unflatteringly, comes to work as if an exfoliating facial sponge, bringing to visibility imperfections on the surface of the skin. Such roughness is in itself a key facet of porn aesthetics (along with a general poverty of the *mise-en-scène*, which Richardson also embraces) – at least those aesthetics established during the “underground” period of discrete production of hardcore pornography, which ran absolutely counter to the lushness and warmth of *Playboy* nude photospreads.

The faux-Richardson glasses in the gift set further encode this signature “look” (of the photographs, but also of the photographer – of Richardson himself, who often appears in his own images): clunky, geeky, 1970s-esque. But if

Richardson, and his work, seems like an anachronistic throwback to an earlier time, it is a very specific time: that period of the creation of the overlit, washed-out patina, and exploitative ambience, of modern hardcore pornography. Maddison (2009) and Steffen (2014) find, in low-budget porn production in the 1970s, the establishment of a collectively recognised “porn chic”, giving rise to a hauntology to be detected in retro fashion and club music sampling, and often now accessed via films from that period (“... der nicht zumindest einen dieser Porno-Klassiker kennt”; Steffen 2014: 9).²

The black t-shirt – the final component of the gift set – underscores this sense of gonzo amateurism in the production of images: no dressy and “official” portrait shoot set-up, but a casual approach in sartorial and, seemingly, artistic matters too. One would be tempted to draw parallels between Richardson and David Bailey (especially in his scruffy fictional variant, as the protagonist of Michelangelo Antonioni’s 1966 film *Blow-Up*) or Helmut Newton (in terms of his relentless focus on the sexualised female form, sometimes heavily fetishised), rather than society photographers Cecil Beaton or Lord Patrick Lichfield, but for the fact that Richardson, like Beaton and Lichfield, has also shot the great and the good – even US President Barack Obama. And yet where a casual approach has been deployed by other society photographers in terms of presenting less stuffy images, as with Mario Testino’s photographs of Princess Diana (and as deliberately echoed in his later portraits of William Windsor and Kate Middleton), the results are often merely less stuffy in matters of framing, stiffness of poise, use of official attire, and so on. The sense of a cloying curtsying in exalted company, with the deferential photographer enfeebled before his subjects, has not been dispelled. Paparazzi images have managed to cut through such stratagems and caught something of the royal or exalted person

underneath – that is, photographs from the vantage point of “the streets”. For the paparazzi, to borrow a phrase associated with graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, the street is the studio: a place of infinite variables, of happenstance, an unlimited, uncontrolled space, and where the photographer finds him or herself forced to live in the moment, and utilise their camera accordingly – the sometime reflex-rendering of a split-second (as Howe puts it: “endless hours of tedium with moments of adrenaline-fuelled intensity”; 2005: 38). Bailey can be associated with this sensibility, as can Richardson, and with a figure like Jean Pigozzi (especially during the 1970s, snapping his way through high society and Eurotrash gatherings; see Pigozzi 1979), bridging the two.

All three photographers operate at an intersection between high fashion and “trashy” subjects, look to playfulness rather than the earnestness which typifies much photographic realism, and found expressions of sexuality to be unavoidable and ever-present in the general run of life. All three seemed to work to capture the immediacy of the moment in which the photograph is taken or, rather, from which the photograph can be said to emerge: immediacy in the sense of spontaneity, the sudden coming-together of setting and subject, or a flash of character or personality, or a uniqueness to a gesture or expression or appearance. Composition and lighting are often secondary to an instinct for reportage, or a grabbing of a moment as it occurs. This is the basis of the association with pornography aesthetics: frenzied activity where the camera is failing to “master” the reality that surrounds it but nonetheless seeks to capture what it can. And, while Richardson often seems to remain in his studio, the studio is treated as a living space, and is presented as such: beds, food, clutter, computer equipment, sexual activity (presumably difficult outside), friends in attendance. More generally, contextualising Richardson’s work in such lofty

company, above, misses the one essential comparison for this obsessive and constant preoccupation with “sexiness”. The low production values and low humour, and sexual mores and attitudes that seem from an earlier time, the troubling of the liberal commentariat, and the presence of an unlikely and grinning ringmaster at the centre of the circus, recalls British comedian Benny Hill, and *The Benny Hill Show*. In considering Richardson’s work of the last decade, one could reasonably consider “The Terry Richardson Show” as an apt descriptor.

Richardson’s pornography aesthetics also recalls, and embraces, the limitations of the pre-digital instant photograph. Cameras with self-developing film, in which the material image itself was available within minutes of being taken, hit their maximum popularity in the late 1970s and early 1980s.³ In cutting out the middle man (the developer), and so eliminating the wait between taking an image and having an image, such technology introduced image-making into intimate domains, and the immediacy of the intimate moment: the camera as mirror, or diary, and a device for homemade pornography. Simultaneously to the widespread use of such home technologies came new, post-1968 sensibilities, evolving towards identity politics and Second and Third Waves of feminism. To think of the photography of nude bodies and sexual activities around 1968 is to think of the massed rather than the individual: the rally/be-in and the orgy as dovetailing – as with *The Living Theater*, or Antonioni’s *Zabriskie Point* (1969), or the record sleeve of Jimi Hendrix’s *Electric Ladyland* of 1968, or Michael Wadleigh’s *Woodstock* (1970), or even John Lennon and Yoko Ono’s very public “bed-ins” in 1969 (and see, too, Levy 1973). In contrast, across the 1970s, the singular body itself came to be understood to bare witness to, and suffer under, micro forms of oppression, and so became the site for viable and pragmatic means of liberation. Debates over exploitation and pornography, or

exhibition and empowerment, in relation to nude or semi-clad models, often centred on allied questions of the individual (her “use” or, more helpfully considered in the context of this discussion, her “terms of employment” as a worker: whether enabling and dignified, or demeaning) rather than sought to mount an institutional critique of the practice itself. The latter position – empowerment through sexual performance – seems mature, liberal and respectful, and even looks to elements of Second Wave Feminism, such as Germaine Greer’s own nude modelling for *Suck* magazine in May 1971. The former position – attacks on the mass nudity requested or required at the behest of predatory industries of exploitation – seems puritanical, reactionary and infused with the kind of “killjoy” ambience that Third Wave Feminism has sought to shake (as Ahmed argues; 2010). Those photographers whose work can be seen as anticipating and engaging with this development through their concentration on the individual self, such as Francesca Woodman (in her proto-“selfies”), and Nan Goldin (the self-documentation of *The Ballard of Sexual Dependency: 1979-1986*), are more usefully compared to Richardson than those whose work also explored “sexual extremes”, such as Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano. For Goldin, the camera witnesses in both voyeuristic and evidential ways: evidence for the prosecution of the violent partners who have beat her, and perhaps even for the self-prosecution (on Goldin’s part) of her “failures” to achieve bourgeois respectability. Such intimacy, and bringing the camera into areas of privacy, can be read as melding the identity politics of the 1970s with the widespread use of technologies of instantaneous and private photography. Indeed, this tendency can itself be read as in dialectical opposition to pornography: to take over the means of production, and produce images of the body oneself. The advent of the digital camera in the ’00s further enabled this during the decade of the full institutionalisation of confessional and sexual

performance via social media (and in the wake of the use of the internet for distribution of celebrity sex tapes), and the genres of Reality Television.

Richardson's adoption of amateur pornography aesthetics across the '00s begins to signal a way beyond the limitations of the consumerist fantasies that structured commercial, *Playboy*-centric pornography (as argued below), and towards the idea of homemade pornography as documenting new social practices. The prerequisite for this break with older modes of pornography (whether consumerist or crudely amateur), for Jean Baudrillard, writing in 1983, is a sense that an absolute visual verisimilitude of representation, as meeting with the most intimate of matters, merely offers the idea of an obscene "truth" – that is, now being able to see that thing which we do not ordinarily see, or was "secret". This is a "[f]orcing of representation", and indicative of a wider malaise, but one that here, for Baudrillard, is usefully considered in respect of pornography. Pornography naturally gravitates to the visual assurance of the authenticity of the biological interactions on display, which is typically called the "money shot" (the male ejaculation). But "... an orgasm in color and close up is neither necessary nor convincing – it is merely implacably true, even if it is the truth of nothing at all. It is only abjectly visible, even if it represents nothing at all." (Baudrillard 2008: 90) This sense of access to a thrillingly obscene truth, now that this truth so widely known or exposed (i.e. the commonplace nature of money shots, and their becoming de rigor for or a cliché of pornography), is no longer enough to sustain pornography as it had been known. Hence "[w]e've come to the end of the cycle of sexuality as truth." (Baudrillard 2008: 132) But in this paradigm sexuality does not vanish from view but, rather, becomes the material for reworked representations. This is a tendency that could then be applied to Richardson's revisiting of an antiquated style to achieve "porn chic", where sexuality becomes "...

more sexual than sex: porn, the hypersexuality contemporaneous with the hyperreal.” (Baudrillard 2008: 30) In this, Richardson, knowingly postmodern, can be taken to be reworking an older aesthetic tendency whose initial semiotic strategies, or promises of views of obscene truths, have long since been rendered obscure or passé. And yet the idea of Richardson as postmodern pornographer, and so having opened up a new commercial vista of obscenity, sits uneasily with the general poverty of his mise-en-scène across the '00s. But as “post-pornography”, Richardson’s images seems to suggests something else at work in the full institutionalisation of confessional and sexual performance via social media. If, as noted, this full institutionalisation occurred organically, or from the grass-roots, and so is “amateur” in a more literal sense, then the resultant flows of images also evidence new forms of human interactions and communications, and new social practices. Such practices, while nominally pornographic in their endeavours, can be read as pointing towards a different type of secret, to use Baudrillard’s term, once their pornographic nature is discarded (or “post-ed”, as per “post-pornography”) as their primary focus. This article argues that these social practices, as anticipated or even verified in Richardson’s work, evidence coming changes in professional or work cultures. And these changes are theorised in relation to the post-Fordist era and the way in which work moves from material production to immaterial production, often along the lines of “affective labour”.

For Hardt and Negri affective labour “produces or manipulates affects such as a feeling of ease, well-being, satisfaction, excitement, or passion.” (Hardt, Negri 2005: 108) This generation of feelings or sentiment is typically understood to be an addition to actual labour, as requested and paid for, but one that comes to finesse the effectiveness of the worker, and so can become fundamental to the role of the worker. Affective labour is usually associated with practices in the service industries: the

waitress, while serving, may need or is expected to deploy both barista and affective skills.⁴ In simple terms: the question of what now constitutes work, of what the worker is now employed to actually do, and how the worker goes about doing it, has been radically revised. And, while the worker has been released from the discipline of factory hours (and so is “post-” the Fordist model of factory work, with its material production), the freedom on the other side seems to have opened up further possibilities for an ever greater extraction of labour.

At this point, the idea of new forms of the exploitation of the worker, ever more demeaning and enveloping ever more hours, dovetails with “classical” conceptions and representations of exploitation, as found in prostitution and pornography. This is not to say that we are all now understood to effectively be prostitutes – faking emotions to remain in secure servitude, offering both mind and body, and desire and intellect, to the employers – but that emotions and human interactions are also effectively contracted. For some Third Wave feminist thinkers, as noted below, this allows for empowerment and equality. Baudrillard’s maxim is extended. We may have “come to the end of the cycle of sexuality as truth” (Baudrillard 2008: 132), but in so doing we have arrived at the beginning of the cycle of sexuality as freed for deployment in other spheres, and in other ways. Richardson’s images can be seen to chart this development, and the resultant entwining of sexuality and affective labour.

The Terry Richardson Show

Richardson first garnered attention in the late 1990s, as initially associated with “heroin chic” (see Arnold 1999). Exhibitions in New York and London followed and “Terryworld”, at the Deitch Gallery in New York in 2004 (with Richardson now

emboldened to brand his curated images with his own name) troubled, and was covered by, the London *Observer* and the *New York Times* (O'Hagan 2004; Trebay 2004, respectively). Arnold makes a familial association, with a 1972 *Nova* photo by Richardson's late fashion photographer father, Bob, in which a model in a seedy hotel, while "conform[ing] to many of the usual sexual tactics assigned to the fashion image" in fact "appears dead, pills emptying from a bottle clasped in her hand" (Arnold 1999: 294). The son's imagery came to avoid the heroin chic trope of the emaciated and "out of it" and so helpless model, which can be read as of a continuum with the Bob Richardson photo, in Arnold's reading, in favour of the emancipated and "into it", pro-sex, and so empowered, model. Six images of women's faces – extracted details from full-page images from *Kibosh* – suggest something of this consciously awake state (see figure 1).



Figure 1

Extracted details from Terry Richardson's *Kibosh* images (2004). Faces rephotographed, cropped and rendered black and white.

The shot of “good girl gone bad” actress and model Lindsay Lohan that closes *Terrywood* works in just such a way too: an open mouth and seductive stare into the camera, mussed-up bleached hair and a comfy jumper, in transit (her handbag's strap over her shoulder), and the (presumably) hotel room number “69” levelled with her knowing eyes. The unmade-up lips reveal freckles; perhaps the lipstick was rubbed off after the call girl assignment (the image's narrative could suggest) that Lohan seems to be unapologetically modelling.

The charge that Richardson was “merely” controversial seems to have been present from the outset. The word “SLUT”, scrawled across a kneeling women’s forehead (see figure 2), seen fellating Richardson, would seem to render the image beyond the pale for the mainstream as well as making for a deliberate provocation to alternative curatorial impulses.



Figure 2.

Extracted detail from Terry Richardson’s *Kibosh* (2004). Face rephotographed, cropped and rendered black and white.

Such provocation “worked” for the 2004 exhibition “Beautiful Losers” at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, for example, which sought to present art from outside the mainstream, looking to subcultures such as skateboarding, and do-it-yourself electronic music (rather than institutions and industries of art), and operating without recourse to the paradigms in operation in the “business” of art. Richardson was singled out as unworthy of inclusion; Atencio and Beal summarise the “heated arguments during the panel discussion [...] around sexism, misogyny and nepotism in the show” where

... [t]he lightning rod for this discussion was a particular work of photographer Terry Richardson that showcased his penis and naked women admiring it. Several members of the audience asked how this represented outsider sensibility, street culture or DIY. [Co-curator Aaron] Rose had difficulty defending his inclusion of Richardson’s work... (Atencio and Beal 2011: 9)

Such controversy has dogged his work ever since, but latterly mostly in respect to his supposed working methods. Thus a member of Pussy Riot felt obliged to apologise, post-shoot, for working with Richardson, and the tabloid press reproduced a video of an off-the-cuff verbal attack on Richardson in the context of a review of his “case history” of allegations (see Testa 2015 and Foster 2015 respectively). Within ten years of *Terryworld* (2004) and “Beautiful Losers”, as I have argued elsewhere (2015a), Richardson seems to have come to be perceived as simply generating controversy where desired: in terms of sullyng the wholesomeness of the public persona associated with Miley Cyrus at the time of her “Bangerz” tour and “Wrecking Ball” single (2014) for example, or in bringing an “edginess” to fashion shoots for

international labels; and then as a matter of accusations (mostly via the outraged liberal media, who have made him into a hate figure and folk devil), rather than full legal recourse, of behaviours ranging from inappropriate to sexual assault. But in this context it is difficult to read the testimonials praising Richardson, often in terms of his kindly nature, that close the entirely respectable 2016 retrospective volumes *Terry Richardson* (Richardson 2015 [Volume 1], unnumbered), as much more than character references for some anticipated future court case. And the ardour of the anti-Richardson furore speaks too of the fall-out from a series of revelations in recent years around senior and respected establishment media figures who would seem to have lived lives of barely concealed vice and debauchery across decades without investigation or censure from those in the know – as with the alleged cases of Roger Ailes in the US or Jimmy Savile in the UK (see Thielman 2016 and Davies 2015 respectively). The failings of the fourth estate emerged from these revelations as effectively rendering such figures untouchable, and so calling into question any high moral ground that the popular press might continue to assume. Richardson, then, was a figure who provided the opportunity, for those who needed it, to be seen to be making good for historical derelictions of duty, on the part of themselves or their organisations or publications.

In these respects, Richardson's notoriety could be said to be usefully understood in neoliberal terms: as available for the outsourcing of outré photoshoots so that multinational companies can avoid potential scandals relating to in-house activities from risqué and salaried photographers. Richardson's *Kibosh* (2004) therefore might be read as advertising or anticipating something that had yet to be fully called into existence: a self-fulfilling prophecy of a wild photographer, freely spraying his semen across his subjects, whom an advertising agency, in need of a

measure of artistic reinvigoration or to demonstrate a competitive edge, may dare to hire for a few hours. And any concomitant negative coverage of the exploitative and “pervy” nature of “Uncle Terry”, and tut-tutting over his use by fashion houses and magazines, becomes the foundations for online click-bait rather than raising the unwelcome spectre of the “feminist killjoy” in relation to those who would criticise Richardson, especially in respect of notions or (for Hakim 2011) potentials, of social and career empowerment through sexuality.⁵ One is further tempted to speculate that the “problem” of Terry Richardson might simply be that he does not “tastefully” cloak the nature of exploitation in modelling (via artsiness or even, in Third Wave Feminist terms again, as empowerment), but just crudely delivers the object of desire as objectified and at times actually subject to seemingly aggressive sexual desire. And, at this time, with the dissemination of risqué images across social media as caught between the trivial (bannings of images of breastfeeding, for example, see Nelson 2014; the non-scandals of pushing against beauty “norms”) and the cruelly pernicious (the initial refusal to recognise pan-sexual identities, for example; see Hot Mess, 2015), Richardson’s radicalism – at least in respect to the stream of images issuing from his studio, via his website, and as disseminated across social media – came to reside in the former category of trivial: a tight spectrum of vanilla candidness that seems little more than showing elements of straight arousal, or the “edginess” of A-list female star armpit hair (see Billboard 2015). A Tumblr account, “I Miss The Old Terry”, draws a measured conclusion: that Richardson’s work of interest (at least, the work that he is releasing) was now a thing of the past.⁶ The way in which the 2015 two volume *Terry Richardson* (Richardson 2015) cleansed the back catalogue of potentially problematic images could be said to be further evidence of as much.

2004: *Kibosh* and *Terryworld*

Kibosh presents itself as recording a series of precise moments in what seems to coalesce, across its hundreds of pages, into an overarching sexual narrative of Richardson's numerous partners. Mostly the photos show Richardson receiving (or starting to receive, or having just received) oral sex. Minor narratives run through the book too: the messy studio space in which the sexual encounters seem to occur, the women who are seen providing the oral sex, only to then disappear and sometimes reappear later, Richardson's assistants who occasionally step into ("photobomb") the shots, and glimpses of some other recognisable artefacts. The mise-en-scène of *Kibosh* seems airless, unhealthy, entropic, more crackhouse than whorehouse, and the narrative unfolds across an uncertain duration. Time does seem to pass, however, as signalled through the introduction of new tattoos on Richardson's limbs. And one tattoo in particular, unavoidable across Richardson's stomach – "T-BONE" (slang for penis, as equating penile muscle with high quality, sirloin-cut beef steak meat) – emphasises the way in which the project of *Kibosh* is fundamental to Richardson: as fundamental as justifying a permanent marking on his body, since *Kibosh* essentially presents his T-Bone in use. Or, that Richardson himself is, in fact, T-Bone (his street name? his skater name?): that he is named after his penis. And indeed his grinning face is often placed at the outer reaches of the shots or, blurred and darkened, outside or behind the areas in focus, or just cropped off altogether. It is his erection rather than himself that comes to dominate the image. Or, in thinking about the expensive nature of these reproductions (glossy, full-bleed) and coffee-table size, "deluxe" binding of the book itself (from Italian art publisher Damiani), that "T-BONE" is effectively the gallery caption next to the art work itself – in this case, Richardson's penis.

While the shots briskly reproduce the dominant relations of the male receiving oral sex, as familiar from pornography (the male towering over the squatting or horizontal female; the male receiving pleasure from the repetitive work of the female), and while the shots also, through the smirks and look-at-me framing and performing, suggest the braggadocio of “revenge” shots of ex partners in compromising sexual positions (as made public online by embittered or vengeful men), they do not suggest a terminus. That is: unlike hardcore pornography or revenge pornography, Richardson’s blow-job shots do not function as the *nec plus ultra* of having successfully “pulled” or “nailed” a desired partner. Rather, the shots seem exploratory – not arriving at the moment of oral sex as the final destination, but that moment as one further step in an ongoing inquiry into the nature of sexual intimacy. So the book sequences shots of encounters with different women: younger, older, girlfriends, (perhaps) prostitutes, “rougher” women (cuts and abrasions, acne blemishes, ungroomed public hair) and, perhaps, pornographic models (fully made-up, surgically enhanced), and with a merry interlude with a number of transgendered or pre-operation transsexual, partners. For these only, Richardson conspicuously sports a condom.

For the inquiry, across *Kibosh*, Richardson is in the process of trying out mouths, moving between, and back and forth, familiar mouths and new mouths, as if sampling wines from different vineyards and of different vintages. The transgender interlude, in this context, seems like a comparative excursion. And it is this matter – receiving oral sex, and *his* sexual pleasure generally – that is the narrative thread, or thematic continuum, across *Kibosh*. This occurs in *media res*: with no introduction or scene-setting.

Image one: close-up of a girl’s face, performing oral sex;

Image two: same girl held upside down by a standing Richardson, who is receiving oral sex;

Image three: rear-entry vaginal sex;

Image four: girl masturbates Richardson;

Image five: as image four;

Image six: centrefold-type image of oral sex.

... and so on. And *Kibosh* ends in pretty much the same way.

Such a cutting-to-the-quick upturns expectations of the sequencing of erotic images. Preciado, in a critical consideration of the philosophy of *Playboy* magazine, notes the narrative functions of the standard sequence of nude image. This narrative typically begins with the Playmate model, who performs the role of being “a rather helpless and infantile girl”, and so presented as the “girl next door” and in her “natural habitat” (home or the office, where she would typically be seen as a secretary). This offers the reassurance that she is not a prostitute or predatory and “loose” woman (i.e. she is safely disease-free). For *Playboy*, therefore, the “Playmates were nice clean girls; there was nothing to fear from seducing them” (Preciado 2014: 57), and the engendered fantasy of this seduction occurs across the progressive disrobing in the sequence of photos: from office girl to centrefold.

Preciado also quotes *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner’s “rules” for photographic shoots and notes, in 1958, a call for readers to engage in “Photographing Your Own Playmate” (2014: 63). The conception is that that girl next door could indeed be revealed to have erotic potential, and that this hidden and maybe even unexpected aspect of her is simply waiting to be tapped and revealed. The revelation cannot be immediate (since the helpless/infantile girl is to be shyly reticent about such matters), but must occur through a gradual process of stripping.⁷ The narrative of hardcore

pornography is merely a logical extension of this approach, but now terminating in penetrative sex rather than full frontal nudity.

Over half a century later, a capitalisation of this erotic potential, in respect to the “global porn ecology”, is commonplace for self-employed “models at home”: “Any girl from the most remote regions of Russia or any young person from Alcarria armed with a computer, a webcam, and a Paypal account can find themselves very easily to be legitimate competitors of *Playboy*.”, Preciado notes (2014: 215-216). This development, then, may be usefully considered in respect to Hefner’s and Richardson’s versions of the “girl next door”. For Hefner the occasional girl next door may turn out to be, miraculously and in the manner of an idiot savant (or just goaded into being), a fully-realised Playmate. While for Richardson, the girl / transexual next door is already fully aware of this potential, and seems to move straight to a “pornified” performance. No narrative of seduction is deemed necessary.

The composition of images illustrates just such a divide too: the *Playboy* shoot is often tastefully (that is, softly) lit, gauzy and soft-focus, and the model almost coy. Richardson’s aesthetic recalls cheap 1970s porn imagery: bluntly gynaecological or organ-centric, lit to reveal the maximum of detail, anonymous, tell-tale marks on “real” bodies – the aesthetic that counters the un-reality of institutionalised mainstream pornography (as finessed by airbrushing and photoshopping, trimming and shaving, teeth whitening, digital manipulation: smoothing off, as it were, the surface and stresses of the body). That is: the images speak of reportage rather than fantasy, and of the actualité and immediacy of the encounter rather than staged and performed acts within an evolving erotic narrative.

In this, Richardson’s use of relatively cheap technology, in terms of cameras, and his ease in reproducing aesthetically less-than-perfect images (for example

blurred or poorly lit), comes to make sense. Richardson's preference is for multiple 35mm "point-and-shoot" Yashica T5 cameras, small enough to fit into the palm of a hand, and which renders image density and detail, if not depth, and features a built-in flash and timer – the camera itself features in the images, as scattered and discarded, or as an accompaniment to sexual acts in themselves. But if the aesthetic recalls vintage porn, the evidential nature of the images anticipate what it means to have a sexual encounter in the age of social media, when reportage (verbal or visual) functions as immediate news, social capital, validation, comedy, erotic recall, blackmail material (on a spectrum from "slut-shaming" to literal blackmail), a process of becoming-celebrity (for those famous from a *sucès de scandale* sex tape), and even legal protection (against those who would claim a lack of compliance on their part). And the "social" (rather than private) element is writ large: the sexual process is one of humour, dares and feats, as if requiring an audience for all this (fellatio performance, penetration close-ups, mid-masturbation selfies), and photography as part of the sexual process in itself. Women wear Terry's glasses; Terry's ejaculate pools on his own glasses; women are individually seen emerging from a trashcan (in the manner of Oscar the Grouch, of *Sesame Street*), from where they fellate; women's heads stick out of closed suitcases, to fellate; priest and nun costumes are used; a fairy godmother costume is used; a pantomime horse is deployed (with Terry's penis standing in for the horse's); Terry's erection seems in danger of encountering a dog that is held aloft (it is unclear whether it is real dog, or a stuffed toy); and the threesome playacting of the transsexuals, who adopt pornstar poses as if aping a "real" (heterosexual) porn shoot. The puerile jokes continue into *Terryworld*: Richardson using the string of an inserted tampon to floss his teeth, or pressing his mouth against female genitalia so that the pubic hair is recast as his moustache (both

images perhaps offer disrespectful homage to Mapplethorpe's self-portraits),⁸ cows udders and bananas used in place of penises, a penis "wearing" a Manolo Blahnik stiletto, Batman and Robin flashing and kissing. Terry's semen seems to get everywhere in *Kibosh* especially – smeared across faces, tights, stomachs, somehow into his own mouth, spattered on floorboards, staining his clothes – as if its presence is both biological validation of the ontological truth of the sex seen, and the punchline of this broad-stroke and goofy comedy show. The term "Kibosh" could be taken as some kind of moment-of-orgasm cry – a sort of comedic variant on "Yes!", as an amalgamation or blending of "ka-boom!", "splash!", "splat!", "bang!", "gush!" – and so emblazons the book quite precisely: muscle spasm / orgasm / ejaculation / exclamation.⁹ It is a Pop Art move for the collection of images: the big, nonsense title, outmanoeuvring or undercutting a sense of artiness with street language, and perhaps even in this seeking comparison with Roy Lichtenstein's iconographic 1963 painting "Whaam!"

The camera itself is almost as ubiquitous as Richardson in the images. Sometimes the photo is of Richardson taking a photo, and in this respect casts Richardson as model / pornstar rather than artist: subject rather than photographer. Or others are seen taking the photo (or, in one instance, videoing): Richardson taking a photo of a woman taking a photo of his penis, for example. But generally the composition evidences that Richardson has taken the photo: vertiginous angles down or up, all of which can be read as "POV" (point-of-view; another aesthetic vernacular of amateur porn), or artlessly-angled shots on the level of the mouth, from a camera dropped to the level of the groin/mouth interaction. Indeed, fellatio lends itself to photography in these respects: Richardson's hands and upper body remain free to deal with the photographic record, which would not be the case in terms of the fuller

preoccupation of face-to-face sexual intercourse. Those other hands around the cameras, however, or the discarded cameras on a bedspread, work to evidence the democratic nature of the act of photography in these scenarios: an accompaniment to sex which produces its own particular secretions (digital images) rather than a reorganising of sex to another end altogether (the production of pornography). Thus cameras denote compliance. In this respect, the presence of the cameras in the images function as akin to the only written words in the book, found on the first (unnumbered) page beyond the frontmatter:

“I would never ask someone to do something that I wouldn’t do myself”

Terry Richardson 2004

Despite the temptation to believe otherwise, this proviso claims, the acts depicted are of mutual exploration rather than exploitation. (In fact, Richardson is not seen giving oral sex to a male or transsexual himself, so the maxim still requires some good faith). But the maxim itself may be another joke: a pre-emptive, defensive self-exculpation and, introducing *Kibosh* in this way, recalls warnings such as Dante Alighieri’s “Abandon hope, ye who enter here”, inscribed above the ninth gate of Hell (in the *Inferno*). For *Terryworld* this Classical connection becomes explicit: an open door, seemingly within a derelict building, and “Enter Hell” messily graffitied above an arrow pointing in (and the next image: a naked Richardson as a devil, red-eyed from the flash, the hanging tail perpendicular to his flaccid penis). The image opposite the “I would never ask...” maxim effectively presents and so demystifies the methodology employed in this image-making: a teddy bear straddling and dwarfed by Richardson’s erection, as he reclines on a bed, his anus on display and the flash of the

camera, and the unnamed photographer, reflected in the curved metallic lampshade above the bed.

In the parallel collection of images, *Terryworld*, Richardson often remains in the frame, even as it becomes occupied with others – even, at times, notable others.¹⁰ Whereas for *Kibosh*, Richardson’s presence was necessary – since, in the manner of a diary, he was recording his own actions – for *Terryworld* his presence seems superfluous, and even opportunistic, and then veering between obsessional and tedious. If *Kibosh* concerned activities behind closed doors, *Terryworld* concerns the world outside – Richardson sets out: on porn film sets, in cheap hotel rooms, in trailer parks, on roads, in cemeteries, public toilets and in forests.

Why does Richardson remain in frame? *Terryworld*, as a kind of mappa mundi, shows a world that revolves around him: he remains at its centre, generating or provoking this world and its behaviours into existence before the camera. As with Pigozzi, it is Richardson’s presence that seems to transform the humdrum into a party, that suggests the possibility of a permanent record of these fleeting encounters and everyday moments (a women entering a hotel bedroom from a shower, Pigozzi’s legs visible on the bed, for example), through the presence of a camera. But Terry is not confined to the role of interloper and interpreter, and goes further: Richardson could be said to be the world in its fallen state, enticing stars down from the heavens to dally with him, and so partake of something of a loss of innocence, and the Fall of Man, before returning to the firmament with a more distinctive sparkle, as is the case with his work with Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga and Beyoncé. So even the absence of Richardson in the frame becomes no barrier to imagining him behind the camera, and reading the image as a direct result of the interaction between him and his subjects.

In the grimy context of Richardson's mise-en-scène, the "real" reportage sex of leaked celebrity sex tapes still seems impossibly glamorous: beautiful people making love in a loving way, often in plush surroundings, or engaged in seductive social media practices. In this respect, as Fahy notes (2007: 79), there is an element of the aspirational to this aesthetic: an unguarded insight into upper and (as with Paris Hilton) millionaire classes. As with *Playboy* (or its aspirant 1970s British variant, *Park Lane*) the erotic frisson here also finds a foundation in a sense of material wealth or security: this available woman as "earned" by the work of the unseen man, and so available for his "use". The look of seedy couplings and sexualised joshing of *Terryworld* is quite the opposite to the aspirational: the milieu to be avoided. The online equivalent of *Terryworld*, in terms of the ugliness of the aesthetic, would be confined to websites catering for particular fetishes: the eroticisation of rough working class bodies; dogging, swinging and group sex; scatological interests and the incorporation of "gross out" behaviours with sexuality; girls feigning being under-aged – that is, the downwardly mobile, or semi-legal, context of those who are "slumming it" in order to satisfy minority interests. And there is a geographical particularity to this too, and one that also finds a resonance in the anonymous and run-down environs of *Terryworld*: the sense of the outskirts of towns (gas stations near motels, woodlands), or derelict and squatted buildings and warehouses – the forgettable, drab and undesirable locales in which such sexual practices can be found, or bought, and practitioners congregate, and are all usefully kept out of sight.

Modelling Affective Labour

There is something of a disconnection between denizens of these semi-criminal and criminal environs (Richardson's geographic particularity) and those who

would peruse the coffee-table Richardson books or attend galleries to see his work. One could surmise – in the absence of field data – that the images function as educational, as historical documentation (in the manner now held to be the case for Mapplethorpe), as humorous diversions, as anti-canonical (in their naïve aesthetics and artlessness), and as (failed?) pornography. If Richardson is an artist (despite this strategic artlessness) – one whose status as such is validated by coffee-table books and art galleries, by the offering of a mitigating proviso of consent, through the eponymous titles of the collections discussed here – then what kind of artistic labour is Richardson engaging in, to these uncertain ends?

Standard ethical critiques of pornography industries, along the lines of exploitation of coerced or impaired models, are difficult to pin on Richardson. After all, these images are not associated with “extremes” of behaviour – as with the bukkake subset of pornography, or the excremental and bloodied experiments of the Viennese Actionists, or BDSM cultures. The subjects of *Kibosh* and *Terryworld* do not seem to have found themselves, by an unfortunate turn of circumstances, effectively humiliated or in distress and unwilling before the camera. In fact, despite the look of instantaneous reportage, the photographs almost universally seem posed or, more appropriately, performed as live.

This can be understood as part of a wider issue relating to technological issues in the transition to digital photography: unlike their automated predecessors, digital cameras are not always truly instantaneous. Critically, milliseconds or even whole seconds can pass while the camera finds its focus by automatically adjusting the lens – the lag between pressing the button to take a photo and the photo actually being taken. This often obliges the subject or subjects to adopt a kind of tableau vivant, performing (and understanding the need to perform) a freeze-frame effect as they

wait. Any run of frenzied sexual action for a Richardson photograph needs to occur across some seconds if the performer understands that a photograph will be taken of it. What then occurs is familiar to theorists of live contemporary music and popular musicology: the performance of, to use Auslander's term, "liveness" (2008). The result is ontologically questionable: a form of authenticity as masking a content of inauthenticity – the most obvious example of which is a pop star lip-syncing to a pre-recorded track during a "live" concert. Those critical seconds of posing therefore are seconds of, it could be argued, compliance on the part of those in the frame. At their most subversive, where the subjects looks unhappy (which is rare) or "out of it" (not as rare, but not comatosed as per Arnold's comments about), the images may be understood to be a performance of non-compliance, but a performance nonetheless. (This is not to say that other critiques of pornography do not still stand: the images might be said to be a fractional contribution to an ecology of pornography veering towards suggestions of humiliation, objectification, the normalisation of prostitution, and even damagingly idealised notions of physical beauty.)

Such a performance of these sexual narratives, for *Kibosh*, is one that, while courting scandal, is difficult to actually consider as scandalous or even sensationalist. Even within the orbit of feminism, the performance of sexuality as a mark of a democratic right has come to be considered as empowering: as noted by McRobbie as de-fanging feminist agency (2009), and by Levy in relation to the rise of raunch culture (2006); as championed by Hakim and even Naomi Wolf (2012); and as giving rise to the sexualisation of feminism as a shame-free life-style option – "Sexy Feminism" for Armstrong and Rudolph (2013).¹¹ Richardson could even be said, to continue this line of thought, to bring about such empowerment: to enable the

performance of sexuality and the realisation of erotic potential, so encouraging and bringing out the ability of everyone to perform in the manner of a porn star.

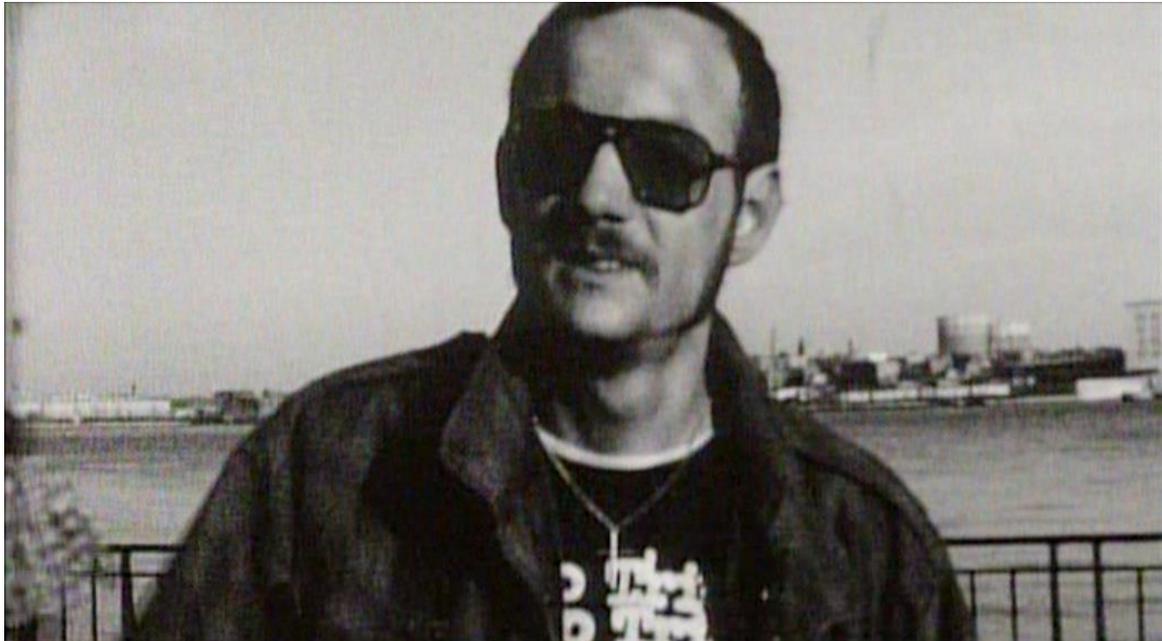


Figure 3

Richardson in the late 1990s: still from *Skin Flick*, aka *Skin Gang* (Bruce LaBruce, 1999).

All this occurs in the enclosed and laboratory-like condition of *Kibosh*, albeit with the occasional interloper in frame, and is then tracked outdoors for *Terryworld* – and yet many of the latter’s images, with their models flattened against minimalist white backgrounds (in the manner of Warhol’s Factory photographs), retain a sense of specimen-subjects isolated for close examination. What occurs in this movement to the outside, and then continues beyond *Terryworld*, is a “pornification” of everything, in the sense of making everything redolent of pornography, or re-presenting the world in a vulgar and crude way, as if demonstrative sexual intercourse is the only vector through which the world can be interpreted and even, as noted above, rendering

“actual” sexual encounters as modelled on behaviours and poses seen in pornographic media. Even when Richardson eradicates human subjects altogether, for *Terrywood* (2012), the emptied landscapes are still found to be pornified: anonymous urban vistas with the garish colours and signs for strip joints – the spaces of Los Angeles as if simply being between takes on porn sets. Richardson then becomes the overseer of this operation of pornification. In this respect, the nature of Richardson’s artistic labour becomes apparent: affective rather than material. This accounts for both the ways in which Richardson seems more to be a producer than a director or creator of the work, and the sense of his presence even when unseen since behind the camera. Richardson’s professional role is that of on-site provocateur, with the alchemical ability to push people-performers into feats of pornographic (rather than simply erotic) spectacle, seemingly beyond expectations and even comfort zones. And so this professional role, allied to management of performance, is one that can be read directly in relation to affective labour.

Such a consideration of affective labour in relation to Richardson is a two-stage operation. Firstly, and anecdotally, it is seemingly a positive affective strategy of interpersonal or prosocial skills that allows Richardson to achieve the images that he does: affective labour as the essential means of production, as a way of being a strategic provocateur who does not endanger the end result (the image) through excessive provocation. Richardson’s producing of his erect penis during a photoshoot would be a fairly Manichean situation: to either shut down the encounter, or to continue into the realm of hardcore. The real condemnation can be saved for those who oversee the reversal of this operation: the generation of images that speak of freewill and consent while masking coercion and exploitation. Such an argument is made in relation to peer pressure and the societal imperatives of “going wild” and

raunch culture in relation to *Girls Gone Wild* by Pitcher (2006), is the basis too of Coren's concerns, in a journalistic investigation into the making of pornography (see "Vicky's Crisis"; Coren and Skelton 2012: 184), and is articulated by Zahm as fundamental in distancing Richardson from pornography in his introduction to *Terryworld*, (Zahm, quoted in Richardson 2012: unnumbered [13]).

Secondly, and more usefully, the images evidence this mode of affective labour. In this respect, Richardson's work can be usefully considered in relation to the end moment of Negri's arresting delineation of artistic phases of the modern era, each of which broadly seems to look to changing modes of labour and production.¹² For Negri, art since 1968 can be read as an exploration of the nature of cognitive, affective and immaterial labour: the diffused, or even invisible, means of production of the post-industrial, post-Fordist, and neoliberal age.¹³ In short: in Richardson's photography, the role of the contemporary worker comes to be seen. And this is in a dialectical opposition to the abstractions of the expressionist phase: Richardson's focus is often close, but not so close that the images begin to degenerate into pixellated patterns. The alignment of methodology and equipment is quite correct in this respect: the T5's 35mm lens continues to capture fine detail even when the photos are reproduced to a substantial size – the texture of skin, the specifics of veins on Richardson's penis, the milkiness of his sperm, and so on. Thus the images are forcibly figurative: the body is present in forensic detail. What seems to be occurring, through the sexual narratives or encounters, is a masterclass in affective scenarios.

Service-industry (post-Fordist) considerations of affective labour tended to remain, in concept, periphery to the main business of service itself: service "with a smile" remains service all the same. Brannan charted, in 2005, what seemed to be a transition from the periphery to the centre of service industry modus operandi – "the

deployment of workers' sexuality in pursuit of organizational objectives", which Brannan terms "sexualized emotional labour" (2005: 421).¹⁴ In this instance, the interactions occur on the telephone: those successfully flirting with clients, like those employed for sex chat lines, remain safe in the knowledge that they would not meet those clients. For Brannan, flirtation is not just a way of getting ahead, and the practice of the canny worker (as per Hakim). It is, more importantly, a key objective or even demand of the worker, as overseen, encouraged and policed by crude office managers. For the Invisible Committee, the "emotional" element can be removed altogether: "sexualized labour" as the way in which successful businesses, and senior managers, come to fully integrate sexual activity, or their sex lives, into their working methods and lives (2008: 47). Earlier, Negri, with Guattari, had noted a running-together of work and private life, at the behest of global capital, moving towards neoliberal models of industry: "deterritorialized production signifies that work and life are no longer separate" (Negri, Guattari 1990: 22). To return to the *Playboy* comparison: Richardson's images are not then the finding of erotic frissons in the working environment and its denizens, but the remaking of the working environment and interactions therein along the lines of erotic interactions. This provocation raises questions for numerous fields that seek to critically theorise and understand labour – or mount resistance to neoliberal forms of exploitation, or disentangle ideas of empowerment and exploitation – but particularly fields associated with feminism and managerialism.

In these ways, as an exemplar exerting a centrifugal force over Western working methods, affective labour becomes increasingly tied to that most (biologically) affective of responses: sexual impulses. One could go further and consider this to be close to one of the frontiers of outsourcing: to undercut rivals, one

comes to offer one's body as "value added", or an "in kind" resource, to finesse the winning of a contract. But this is not the classic and opportunist "power couple", or even "fuck buddy" arrangement, where sexual matters remain a matter of mutual respect and enjoyment. It is, rather, a matter of Human Resources and portfolio management. In this, the worker is understood as a body available for exploitation – but a freed rather than shackled slave, or a sexual role player rather than hired prostitute: one who is willing to enter into such relationships, even performing faux-feelings, but requiring nudge-like provocations from the on-site manager to go the one step further. And the context for these developments and new ways of earning a living in the West is far from the aspirational and lush in these images, as once associated with mainstream erotica. Richardson's crackhouse mise-en-scène is one that resonates with precarity and poverty: the scuzzy aesthetics of 1970s sexual exploitation come to be seen to anticipate something of the psychology of contemporary practices of the extraction of labour value from the workforce. In Richardson's photography such new models of the worker and affective labour are traumatically apparent.

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Boogie Nights. 35mm print. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. 1997; Los Angeles: New Line Cinema.

The Brown Bunny. 35mm print. Directed by Vincent Gallo. 2003; Berlin: Wild Bunch.

Skin Flick, aka *Skin Gang*. DVD transfer from 35mm print. Directed by Bruce LaBruce. 1999; Berlin: Jürgen Brüning Productions.

Woodstock. 35mm print. Directed by Michael Wadleigh. 1970; Los Angeles: Warner Bros.

Zabriskie Point. 35mm print. Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. 1969; Los Angeles: Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer.

Television

Girls Gone Wild. DVDs. Directed by various. 1997-2011; various locations: Girls Gone Wild.

Jackass. Directed by various. 2000-2002; Los Angeles: MTV.

The Larry Sanders Show. Directed by various. 1992-1998; Los Angeles: Brillstein-Grey Entertainment, Columbia Pictures Television, HBO.

Sesame Street. Directed by various. 1969-present: Los Angeles: Children's Television Workshop, Sesame Workshop.

¹ This can be purchased through Amazon.com, and American Apparel, for US\$75 at the time of writing. Richardson has a branded pair of actual glasses too: "Terry", in the Salt Optics range.

Terry Richardson is a New York-born (1965) photographer, whose itinerant childhood and early life included periods spent in the US and Europe, particularly New York, Los Angeles and London, and was coloured, by his own account, by family problems and periods of poverty. After leaving school Richardson followed his initial ambitions and played bass in a variety of punk bands in Southern California. Richardson's father had been a noted photographer, as discussed below; his mother was an actress and his stepfather, Jackie Lomax, had been a British pop and rock musician of some note. Richardson's photographic work has been a continual source of controversy, as considered to evidence working methods that are little more than cover for sexual coercion and assault, even to the extent that galleries seem reluctant to mount retrospectives and art critics praise his work.

² "Porn chic" can be understood as a recovery and use of the aesthetics of pornography from former years as an accoutrement to contemporary cultural practices, especially around t-shirts, night clubs and themed parties, sampling and

DJing, “bad film” nights, sporting “hipster” facial hair, films such as *Boogie Nights* (Paul Thomas Anderson, 1997) and *Auto Focus* (Paul Schrader, 2002), coffee table books such as *Danish Porn* (Nordstøm 2012) and the like, translating the jarringly unfashionable look of yesteryear into the cutting edge of the contemporary. More generally such “vintage”, “retro” or even “nostalgic” pornography, as a niche interest, is well catered for on the internet. Certainly, however, it is more often a question of reappropriating the look of the male who was once found at the centre of this hedonistic maelstrom (moustachioed, unlikely as a model by today’s norms, and seemingly unreconstructed in his perception of gendered role models), rather than being a pole of aspiration for females.

The application of the term to Richardson’s work by journalists and cultural commentators has been attacked as reductive and misleading by Richardson’s collaborator and publisher Olivier Zahm: “Pornography is not only fake, stupid and dangerous, it does not exist. It’s a pure construction, an illusion. Terry’s pictures are the opposite of that. They are deconstructing this faux veneer. That is why it’s so infuriating to hear the press call his work ‘porn chic’ or ‘porn glamour’”. (Zahm, quoted in Richardson 2012: unnumbered [13]) Aside from the assumption that the charge is necessarily pejorative, Zahm intimates that “porn chic” masks that postmodern tendency for freely assembling disparate aesthetic vernaculars. Richardson, for Zahm, works against such ontologically questionable reconstruction in his return to a kind of unfiltered reportage – a return that is certainly not locked into any one particular moment, or phase of chic-ness. And ideally glamour photography, as Zahm notes of his (and Christopher Niquet’s and Richardson’s) work with Lohan, ought to encompass “a realm of darkness [as much] as of light” (Zahm 2010: 64): a

full and challenging emotional spectrum, and one not just beholden to the ebbs and flows of the fashionable.

³ For an overview of Polaroid technology and cultures, see Buse (2007).

⁴ Hardt and Negri later note that affective labour is deeply embedded in the understanding of what it means to act as a female, especially in a blue-collar capacity, see (Hardt, Negri 2009: 134). On the question of the profession of modelling itself as affective, and expectations on the model, as often prone to precarious labour conditions in this respect too, see Wissinger (2007).

In addition to Hardt and Negri, Guattari, and *The Invisible Committee* (all cited in this article), other theorists working in the field of theorising such new forms of labour include Paolo Virno and Maurizio Lazzarato (see Virno and Hardt, 1996, particularly section 2: “Working in Post-Fordism”) and *Ephemera*’s special issue “Immaterial and affective labour: explored” (Volume 7, Number 1; February 2007); available at: <http://www.ephemerajournal.org/issue/immaterial-and-affective-labour-explored> (accessed November 2015).

⁵ This is not to say that the model is expected to lead the critique in the face of having raised concerns about the nature of the photoshoot; Ahmed’s call for a recovery of the figure of the “feminist killjoy” suggests that the commentariat (both journalistic and editorial, and academic) would be better placed to do so. While her article is dedicated to “all the feminist killjoys” and that “[y]ou know who you are!” (Ahmed 2010: endnote 1), Ahmed is not prescriptive in saying who they are.

⁶ See <https://www.tumblr.com/search/I+MISS+THE+OLD+TERRY> or <http://imisstheoldterry-acopy.tumblr.com/> (accessed June 2015).

⁷ These rules, and general philosophy, seem to have dated rapidly, even for those not in the ambit of Second Wave feminism; a 1993 episode of the comedy *The Larry*

Sanders Show (“Broadcast Nudes”; season 2, episode 11) sees Hefner, playing himself, reject an offer of a photospread of the Playmate-like PA to the talk show host’s sidekick, to be called “The Sidekick’s Sidekick”, on the grounds that it is “a circa 1975 idea”, to the fury of the sidekick.

⁸ As with, for example, “Untitled” (Self Portrait” of 1973) of Mapplethorpe in metal and leather bondage gear, and “Self-Portrait” of 1978, with a whip’s handle inserted into his anus.

⁹ Kibosh is a term of uncertain origins meaning to restrain or stop – to “put the kibosh” on something. Such a literal reading is comically inappropriate for Richardson, since *Kibosh* just keeps going with its record of unrestraint.

¹⁰ *Terryworld* was published in the same year as *Kibosh*, with which it shares some images, but one senses that *Kibosh*, looking backwards, archived work that had been done while *Terryworld* represented contemporary work. Some of the faces who appear in *Terryworld* indicate the artistic milieu in which Richardson perhaps places himself, and with some justification: Dennis Hopper (whose photography ceased in 1967, but documented a very particular scene: the counterculture and its context before its institutionalisation in the Summer of Love and beyond); Harmony Korine (who various media works deal with often extremes of outsiderism, poverty and the defacing of popular culture); the “Jackass” performers (whose MTV television show of 2000-2002 challenged ideas of taste and decorum through the staging of stunts and “candid camera” moments); and Chloë Sevigny and Vincent Gallo (who together, in Gallo’s 2003 film *The Brown Bunny*, performed an extended scene of fellatio, with Gallo reputedly directing and filming and receiving).

¹¹ For further discussion of the sexualised nature of Third Wave Feminism, see Halligan (2013); on the public performance of sexuality or sexual narratives as

feminist protest, in relation to the SlutWalk movement, see Halligan (2015b). The circulation of Richardson's images across media platforms, as noted above, and especially of former teen starlets such as Lohan and Cyrus, works to invite a consideration of these images in debates allied to Third Wave feminism. While much of the strategic thinking that informed Second Wave feminism looked to forms and practices of withdrawal from patriarchal cultures (and even geographical areas), so that debates concerning representation and dignity were perceived as merely tactical at best and a waste of time as worse, Third Wave feminists sought to storm back into and disrupt these areas. In this, popular culture was now targeted as a, if not the, arena for battle, especially in relation to its all-pervasive nature and the ways in which it was understood to normalise standards of behaviour and appearance, particularly for the young and impressionable. Richardson's public persona, which I here refer to as "Terry", seems designed to draw fire in this context, even to the point of Terry seemingly seeking to embody, in a porn chic manner, and deliberately or otherwise, the violent and predatory male that Second Wave feminists would have felt, in the 1970s, to be beyond reform, and so prompting their exodus.

Even an early Terry appearance, in Bruce LaBruce's gay porn film *Skin Flick* (also known as *Skin Gang*, 1999), has the photographer winding up in an argument with a stranger with whom he engages in an impromptu outdoors shoot, asking "let me see your ass a little bit" and cooing "I love that!" and "that's so sexy!" After she exposes, and so ruins, his film, and he calls her a "cunt", "bitch" and "slut", he is berated, slapped and eventually chased off by the furious amateur model: "Dirty bastard! I'll fucking put my fucking boot right up your fucking ass! Bet you might like it too, huh?"

¹² This is not to say that Richardson’s work can be read in support of Negri’s revolutionary position on art and immaterial labour, which ultimately seeks to rethink the Kantian sublime in terms of understanding contemporary, globalised processes of the abstraction of labour, and finding these processes of abstraction, and the oppositions that they engender, in art after 1968; (see Negri 2011: 120-123). Rather, I am proposing that Richardson’s work evidences an aspect of that process of abstraction, and so shows something of the nature of contemporary labour, but arguably with a negligible critical distance from it – something which is, perhaps, the task of the critical writer, in relation to attempting to find in Richardson’s art those “roots” that, for Lenin, “should be deeply implanted in the very thick of the labouring masses”, (Lenin 1978: 231).

Negri’s historical delineation, (“rough, of course, but nonetheless real”; 2011: 102; a “broad-brush description [which] does not pretend to offer a new narration of the history of art”; 2011: 108) is found in his 2008 paper “Metamorphoses: Art and Immaterial Labour” (see Negri 2011: 101-123). Firstly, Negri notes a new realism allied to the “massification – crude and powerful – of working class labour”, during a phase in which class struggle is deemed as central to capitalist development: 1848-1870. Secondly, Impressionism is allied to a phase in which the worker comes to grasp that the means of production can be dissolved and reformed or re-territorialised (in terms of self-management) on the workers’ own terms: a process in which “creation lay in dissolution” (2011: 103), and this is dated to 1871-1914. Both these phases are related to the age of the skilled worker (2011: 106). Thirdly, Expressionism, which is read across the period 1917-1929, comes to reflect the abstraction of labour, which occurs both at the behest of industry (on the cusp of post-Fordism) and empowers the worker: it is a resistance to the imposed conditions of

increased production, as well as forming revolutionary proletarian subjectivity: “the very material for an alternative imagination” (2011: 104). Fourthly, an unnamed phase runs across 1929-1968, given over to the “geometrical destructuring of the real” (2011: 105), and the “socialist management of ... abstraction” (2011: 106), and often via a simplification of artistic gestures: a process of demystification, which could be said to resonate in art read as postmodern, such as Pop Art. From 1968 to the present, with “the end of the mass worker” (2011: 113), art and cognitive labour power is understood to be in dialogue in relation to a common undercurrent of affective and immaterial labour.

¹³ Immaterial labour is typically theorised as a matter of “ideas, symbols, codes, texts, linguistic figures, images” (Hardt, Negri 2005: 108) – and where the exchange value of these outcomes is often predicated on further sets of variables often devoid of a precise connection to day-to-day existence.

¹⁴ Tellingly, Brannan’s data and ethnographic reflections, drawn from a West Midlands call centre, goes under the same title – *Once More With Feeling* – as Coren and Skelton’s 2010 investigation into the making of pornographic films. The common thread is that both those working in call centres (Customer Service Representatives) and on the sets of pornographic films invariably need to fake emotions through performance in order to suggest the sincerity involved in their work. However, genuine feelings of attraction are not excluded from the conception of contemporary labour: affectiveness is bluntly sexualised for food chain Pret-a-Manger, where management seem to have been happy to waive the cost of the occasional cup of coffee if it will firm-up flirtatious interactions between customer and waiter or waitress; see (Stephens 2015).