

Feverish World Symposium 20 - 22 October 2018
University of Vermont, Burlington, USA.

Tentworks

Dressing For Evacuation:

The symposium asked the question '*How do we prepare for the feverish world of the next 50 years? More specifically, how can we draw on the creative imagination of the arts, the wisdom and critical insight of the humanities...*'

Curtis's *Dressing for Evacuation* project was invited to be part of Tentworks, an area of installation and intervention at the 2018 *Feverish World Symposium*, which defined the format of the work, and was to be displayed within a pre-described wooden tent framework.

Through the design development process, the photographs of the participants were scaled up to life - size to encourage discourse with viewers. The tent format aligned well with the project, presenting the participants as homeless evacuees and the possibility of them becoming refugees.

The photographic based material was selected to be waterproof, durable and portable to enable them to inhabit different sites with ease. The tent installation at both exhibitions were accessible to conference attendees, employees and the general public outside of controlled exhibition hours, increasing the importance of supporting infographic materials to contextualise the project, and to allow for viewers to engage with the key questions and reflect on their own response to a national emergency. Two folded posters were designed to provide this context and were located next to the tent installations.

The outdoor location and scale of the work meant that the general public could see the tent from a significant distance giving them time to consider whilst approaching. The life size portraits created a strong visual impact, encouraging both conference attendees and casual viewers to consider themselves in similar scenarios. The tent-like fabric added to the sense that the idea of a permanent home could be taken away, leaving us and our families with only what we stand up in.