

three fold. into @gmail.com



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Most embarrassing childhood memory

describe your last date

fav. word

fav tv show from when you were a child

the best thing that happened to you today

memorable camping trip

memorable drunk story

favourite wine

most meaningful song

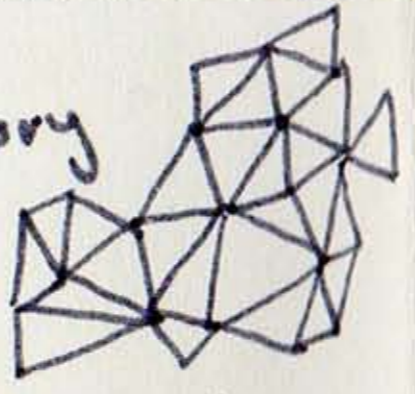
first kiss

last person you missed

first workout

favourite a bum

favourite book



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Pirrin	Mel	Hayley
16	12	8
22	24	17
31	34	44
36	46	58
50	52	72
60	76	78
73	89	88
80	95	95
95	121	107
107	127	123
113	134	129
127		135

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# THREEFOLD

## MADE UP DREAMS

### 16 FEBRUARY - 9 MARCH 2013

#### Close is not close enough: Threefold and collaboration

What does being close to someone mean?

Ben D: Like does it mean like a best friend kind of, im not sure i do have 2 best friends i know are my real best friends, but is like being close mean almost a best friend or something.

Ally\_bally: To me, being close to someone means that you can trust them completely. You know that they have your back, and you have theirs. You can talk to them about anything or nothing, and they won't judge you about it.

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090523190101AAp2r4l>

Threefold is Pirrin Francis, Melissa Ryke and Hayley Brandon. Through sound, video, and text, Threefold investigate the strengths and anxieties surrounding what it means to work with other people, collaboration as a social system, and the personal connections that grow from this.

Over the past five weeks, Threefold have utilised the Boxcopy gallery space as a studio and place for collaborative practice. In this time Threefold have focused on how, as a collaboration, they are able to push the boundaries that exist between each other, and to 'get to know each other better'. They have played with the barriers that live between them in an attempt to draw each other ever closer. During their residency at Boxcopy, Threefold have developed and produced *Made Up Dreams*, and maintained a website detailing their time in the gallery space, and exploring their practice.

*Made Up Dreams* is a multi-channel sound installation that centres on the dreams of the Threefold members. Pirrin, Hayley and Mel each recalled one of their dreams to a clairvoyant, who then analysed the content of the dreams, trying to work out themes and develop insights into the dreamer. The medium's analysis is recounted and recorded by Threefold, and played in the gallery to form a low chorus of dream recollections. The gallery, converted into a home-like room, is transformed into an introspective space.

At the heart of *Made Up Dreams* is a conversation surrounding intimacy. In this installation, the dream performs as a personal artefact, and is used to explore intimacy with the self, fellow artists, and Threefold's audience. On one level, simply by documenting dreams and sharing them with each other, Threefold break down barriers of distance in the collaboration and create intimacy through sharing personal information.

I was in bed and there was a person lying next to me. At first I thought it was my Nain (Grandma) but then I realised it was me as an old woman. I was so white and thin, with fine wrinkles all over my face. I still had the same colour hair but it was shaved short and close to the scalp. She (I) was telling me that she was very sick and going to die soon, but when I asked what with she wouldn't tell me. She wanted to be held in bed and I remember hoping my mum would come into the room to make everything alright. I felt distraught and shaken in the dream.

The artists learn things about each other that they did not know, as well as things that may not usually be shared. For a large part of their time as a collaboration, Threefold practiced with Melissa living in France, and Pirrin and Hayley in Brisbane. In *Made Up Dreams*, Threefold rectify the lack of physical connection they felt whilst Mel was living overseas by drawing each other closer psychologically – by attempting to experience 'inside each other's heads'.

Beyond the exchange of personal information however, *Made Up Dreams* shows the systematisation of Threefold's attempt to bring each other closer. They take the dream as something quintessentially personal, and transform it into a public artefact for analysis. Of course, in doing this, Threefold engage with a historical tradition of dream analysis – arcing back to practitioners like Freud and Jung, who used dreams as tools for psychoanalysis. As the dream is investigated and analysed by a third party, in this case the clairvoyant, it becomes data. From the clairvoyant's conclusions, Threefold are able to systematically blur personal and professional boundaries.

While *Made Up Dreams* uses the dream as a form of information, Threefold have created an intimate experiential space in the gallery, and therein the dream is still experienced as something deeply personal. It is almost as if we are being let in on a secret; we lean closer to hear the audio – hushing our breath so we don't miss a word.

Questions surrounding separation, collaboration, and intimacy are also present in Threefold's previous work *I just want to get to know you better, I just want you to get to know me better* (2012). This video investigated the difficulties of collaborating across place. While Threefold used Skype as a digital space to meet virtually and share ideas, their yearning for a shared tangible space becomes apparent, as they talk about creating virtual spaces that are a culmination of all their locations. This created virtual space then acts as a replacement for their lack of shared space. Finally, they are able to be in one place at one time.

Coinciding with a desire for connection and intimacy, Threefold's work and the experimentations that accompany this installation carries with it a feeling of almost adolescent affection and self-consciousness. As part of their time in the Boxcopy gallery, Threefold have documented and developed ideas for the residency through a webpage. On the homepage of this, there is a short welcome video from Pirrin, Mel and Hayley. Standing in a line, they hold their arms in the air to greet their virtual visitors. Press play, and they burst into laughter, saying how silly they must look.

The bashfulness and tenderness Pirrin, Hayley and Mel display in this video emphasises the heightened sense of self-awareness that can exist in collaboration. There is a sensitivity to other people's perceptions that is evident here. While collaboration can be an intensely productive and professional working relationship, there is a tenderness that goes on between the members as they carry out the decisions made around their practice.

This tension surrounding self-awareness is further explored in Threefold's audio portraits, featured on their website. Each member of the collaboration creates a portrait of each other, and themselves, in the form of a playlist. Drawing on the mix-tape as a form of pop portraiture, the viewer creates their own version of what this person is like – bringing into play what the songs suggest both literally and culturally.

Threefold's mixtape, along with their installations and video, is part of a constant drive for closeness between the three, to bring them together and strengthen the growth of their compelling practice. The question remains though – how will they will decide when close is close enough? Threefold have entered into an intense dialogue surrounding collaboration here, beginning a conversation that will be difficult to end.

by Maggie McDade



Made Up Dreams  
Threefold  
16 February - 9 March 2013  
Opening Saturday 16 February 6pm

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Front: Threefold *Notes*, digital image, 2013.  
Left: Threefold *Video Portrait* (stills), 2013.

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