

'Screen/Mirror'

Author

Green, Stephanie

Published

2020

Version

Version of Record (VoR)

Rights statement

© The Author(s) 2020. The attached file is reproduced here in accordance with the copyright policy of the publisher. For information about this journal please refer to the journal's website or contact the author(s).

Downloaded from

<http://hdl.handle.net/10072/396500>

Link to published version

<https://www.textjournal.com.au/speciss/>

Griffith Research Online

<https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au>

Screen/Mirror by Stephanie Green

If this frame holds a mirror then I face a hundred masks, daily, bearing witness to the old emotions—joy, rage, grief and boredom. This one smiles kindly, offering consolation. This one is polite impatience, eyes askance. That one is all stony silence. Another never arrives, or is invisible, lurking somewhere at the margins. In all this I cannot see myself, or, you would say, it is only myself that I see. In fact, I gave away self-study years ago, with the golden complexion of youth. But these shades, seeming reflections, still catch my eye, that half shock of familiarity. The others I know so well, colleagues, family, friends: ghosts in a machine I barely recognise. How much is a performance? We are together and apart, reaching out to touch the surface between us, impermeable yet changing, unsure how we seem to each other. It's not that appearance has ceased to matter. Even now I smooth an eyebrow or run fingers through unbrushed hair, wondering if I should wear lipstick, next time.

Bio: Stephanie Green is a widely published Australian writer and lecturer at Griffith University. Her work has appeared in *TEXT*, *Griffith Review*, *Axon*, *Westerly*, *Island*, *Overland*, a variety of anthologies, and leading international scholarly journals. She has also received literary awards, including *The Age* Short Story Award (1991) and the Hal Porter Short Story Award (2012). Her books include a volume of collected prose poems, *Breathing in Stormy Seasons* (Recent Work, 2019) and a selected short fiction, *Too Much Too Soon* (Pandanus, 2006). Her research includes studies in gender and transmedia fantasy narrative and she is a member of the international research network, *Imagining the Impossible*: <https://www.imaginingtheimpossible.com/>