I'm travellin' light' ... 'No, no, you don't travel light'. (Tindersticks self-titled album 95)

> **Hany Armanious Thomas Bernstein Natalie Davey Domenico DeClario** Deej Fabyc Nicola Loder **Rob McHaffie** Sanné Mestrom Tracy Nakayama **Jonathan Nichols Deborah Ostrow Tere Recarens Peter Robertson Gareth Sansom David M Thomas** Jeremy Yoder

curated by **Deborah Ostrow**

Spacement opening 6pm Thursday 4 Dec 1-17 December 2005

'm familiar with few of the fifty or so artworks in this exhibition. Artist/curator Deborah Ostrow has asked me to write something here because I've known her and her practice for more than a decade, since we were both 'emerging', and because at different times there has been a sort of 'intensity' in our friendship. The participants in the exhibition have this in common: their link to Ostrow and, along with that, an intensity of feeling (on Ostrow's part at least) that occurred once upon a time or more than once.

Deborah Ostrow has asked me to mention something about each artist's work 'because artists always want that', but as I said, I haven't seen most of the artists' work. I can see though that Ostrow's motivation for putting the show together fits with the way her own practice has developed over the last ten years, especially her exhibitions of the 1990s. For Ostrow, making art has always been about activating identities and ideas about interrelationships between people. The aesthetics of her art and her domestic environment are unusually inseparable; her aura and her analyst, her attitudes to love and war, all have been reconstructed indirectly or metaphorically in her work. Ostrow displaces these personal 'treasures' and substitutes the sensations and feelings she associates with others—including other things—around her, those that have affected her deeply.

With 'I'm travellin' light' ... 'No, no, you don't travel light', Deborah Ostrow constructs a personalised historical account of art through the last decade and a half. Quite simply, she has brought together the artworks that she remembers most clearly over that time. She describes the various figurative and other because there's no one else'. But she means this in a particular way-she is co-opting the work of these artists

for her own self-examination; the exhibition becomes like a self-portrait. Ostrow gives us the beautiful ruse that is the übercurator. Nonetheless she remains the artist behind the mask of the curatorial role-play. We'll be better able to experience what this means for the art once the exhibition opens; I imagine it will affect what we see.

There are sixteen artists in 'I'm travellin' light' ... 'No, no, you don't travel light'. I've met about half, some fleetingly (Natalie Davey at a dinner in Fitzroy a decade or more ago, Domenico DeClario, David M Thomas), some I know a little better (Hany Armanious, Deej Fabyc, Nicola Loder), some I know better still (Deborah Ostrow herself, Gareth Sansom), and one is my husband (Jonathan Nichols). How disconcerting it is to attempt to compartmentalise people into these groups, 'grading' the relationships, not for quality but for 'depth'. This question of what it means to even briefly 'know' a person, to allow yourself to be influenced by that experience, and to recall that experience differently over years, is central to Ostrow's interest in undertaking this project. Can we say that art is a reasonable form through which to do this? Because, like music, experience of art for artists and viewers can be associated with specific times, moods and events, holding distinctive feelings?

This exhibition is an ambitious undertaking. Works dated from 1976 to 2005 have been transported to Melbourne from seven different cities: Berlin, Brisbane, Düsseldorf, London, New York, Perth and Sydney. It's appropriate that the exhibition is being presented at Spacement, a basement gallery so low down in the ground it's without mobile phone coverage artists are 'bottom feeders' I'm always being told.

Bala Starr, 2005



1. Domenico DeClario

2. David M Thomas 3. Deborah Ostrow

4. Deej Fabyc 5. Gareth Sansom

6. Hany Armanious 7. Tracy Nakayama

8. Jeremy Yoder 9. Natalie Davey

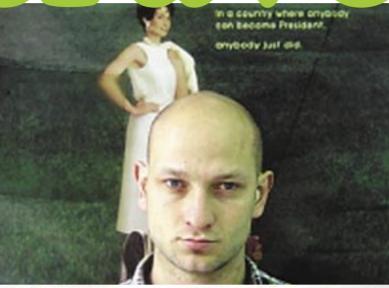
10. Nicola Loder

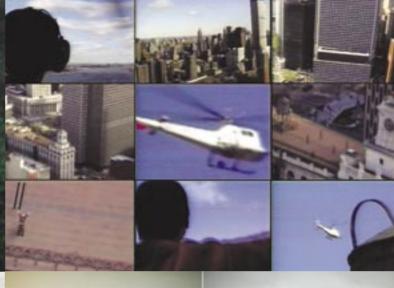
11. Peter Robertson 12. Rob McHaffie

13. Sanné Mestrom 14. Tere Recarens

15. Thomas Bernstein 16. Jonathan Nichols























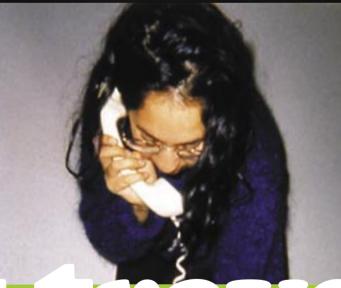












List of works

Effigy of Mr Karma as Shiva with four manifestations (all photographers are cunts) 1992 found objects, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist; Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery,

Sydney; and Michael Lett Gallery,

Auckland 2. Thomas Bernstein emissions 1993 ink on paper, 21 x 29.7 cm

Courtesy the artist 3. Thomas Bernstein Black and white people 1993 ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm

Courtesy the artist Couples with luggage in the desert 1993 ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm Courtesy the artist

Bulky luggage 1993 ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm

Courtesy the artist 6. Thomas Bernstein Couples hanging on a mountain top 1993 ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm

7. Thomas Bernstein Men hanging on ship 1991 lithograph, 24 x 33 cm

8. Thomas Bernstein Default gender 19<mark>91</mark> ithograph, 24 x 33 ci Courtesy the artist

9. Thomas Bernstein Men and women with mobile phones in a cave 1991 ink on paper, 2 parts, each 50 cm diam. Courtesy the artist

10. Natalie Davey 'In the pub' from the 'Bad photography' series 1995 watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm Courtesy the artist

11. Natalie Davey 'Amber BYO' from the 'Bad photography' series 1998 watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm Courtesy the artist

12. Natalie Davey Man in Munich' from the 'Bad photography' series 199 watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm

13. Natalie Davey 'Car park' from the 'Bad photography' series 1996 vatercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm Courtesy the artist

14. Natalie Davey 'Public art' from the oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist

15. Natalie Davey 'Building, Germany' from the 'Park' series 1990 oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm

Courtesy the artist

17. Natalie Davey

16. Natalie Davey 'Paddock' from the 'Park' series 1991 oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesv the artist

'Sightseeing' from the 'Park' series 1991 oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist 18. Natalie Davey

oil on canvas, 25 x 20 cm Courtesy the artist 19. Natalie Davey 'Industriegebiet' from the 'Park' series 1991

oil on canvas 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist

20. Domenico DeClario Project (Te Awatea) New Zealand: 7 installation/performances at the Govett Brewster Gallery and various sites around New Plymouth. New Zealand, using found materials, September–December 1998 2005 type C photographs, 7 parts, each 10×15 cm, edition of 6 Courtesy the artist

21. Domenico DeClario Quiet in the land: 28 monochrome Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, Maine, United States, 2-30 June 1996 2005 type C photograph, 59.4 x 42 cm

22. Deej Fabyc catch/snatch 1999 DVD, colour, sound

Courtesy the artist 23. Nicola Loder Tourist: i am not a black man, Melbourne circa 2005 2005 lambda digital prints, acrylic 4 parts, each: 40.2 x 63.5 x 0.8 cm

Courtesy the artist and Crossley

24. Rob McHaffie a parallel world ain't so bad 2005 oil on canvas, 36 x 30 cm Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

& Scott, Melbourne

25. Rob McHaffie friends of the artist 2005 mixed media and found objects sions variable Courtesy the artist and

26. Sanné Mestrom 1984 (French) 2005 gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm

27. Sanné Mestrom

Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

28. Sanné Mestrom gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm

1984 (German) 2005 gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm

29. Sanné Mestrom 198<mark>4 (English)</mark> 2005 Courtesy the artist

30. Tracy Nakayama Middle agers 2005 sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder & Sportsman Gallery, Chicago

31. Tracy Nakayama sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder & Sportsman Gallery, Chicago

32. Tracy Nakayama Sweet honey child 2005 sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder & Sportsman Gallery, Chicago 33. Tracy Nakayama Apple 2005

sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder

34. Jonathan Nichols things in you (watch your type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, edition of 5 Courtesy the artist and Karen

Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne

35. Jonathan Nichols husiness) no 2 1995 type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne

Jonathan Nichols hings in y<mark>ou (</mark>watch yo<mark>ur</mark>

siness) no. 3 1995 type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne

37. Jonathan Nichols kissing 1998 oil on linen, 41 x 51 cm Private collection, Brisbane

38. Deborah Ostrow After Araki's 'Tokyo lucky hole' and 'Dramatic shooting and fake reportage 2005, printed matter, synthetic polymer modelling day, 3 parts: dimensions variable

39. Deborah Ostrow (PS1 Clocktower Gallery) 1999 ideotape transfered to DVD, Courtesy the artist

40. Tere Recarens Miss-work 2005

type C photograph, 165 x 200 cm Courtesy the artist and Galeria 41. Tere Recarens

Tere Watere 1999 videotape transferred to DVD, colour, sound, 14:22 minutes Courtesy the artist and Galeria Toni Tapies, Barcelona

42. Peter Robertson Intitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994 ambda print, 43 x 31 cm Courtesy the artist

43. Peter Robertso 'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994 lambda print, 43 x 31 cm Courtesy the artist

44. Peter Robertson 'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994 lambda print, 43 x 31 cm Courtesy the artist

45. Peter Robertson 'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994 ambda print, 51 x 61 cm Courtesy the artist

46. Peter Robertson 'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994 lambda print, 61 x 51 cm

Courtesy the artist 47. Gareth Sansom Self-portrait with camera 2005 type C photograph, 91.4 x 121.9 cm

48. Gareth Sansom mixed media and collage on cardboard, 83 x 104 cm

Courtesy the artist and John Buckley Fine Art, Melbourne 49. David M Thomas Everyday I am a day older (Dave) 1993/4-2005

digital print, 120 x 80 cm Courtesy the artist 50. David M Thomas Everyday I am a day older (Muppets' Christmas) 1993/4-2005

digital print, 120 x 80 cm

Lilikoi 2004 Courtesy the artist 52. Jeremy Yoder

51. Jeremy Yode

densely packed 2004 collage on paper, 27.5 x 21 cm Courte sv the artist

53. Jeremy Yoder The spilt milk ceremony 2003 collage on paper, 15.5 x 27 cm

54. Jeremy Yoder breath 2004 collage on paper, 48 x 38 cm

Courtesy the artist

Courtesy the artist and John Buckley Fine Art, Melbourne

Tues-Fri 12-6pm, Sat 1-5pm

Spacement +61 3 9639 2560