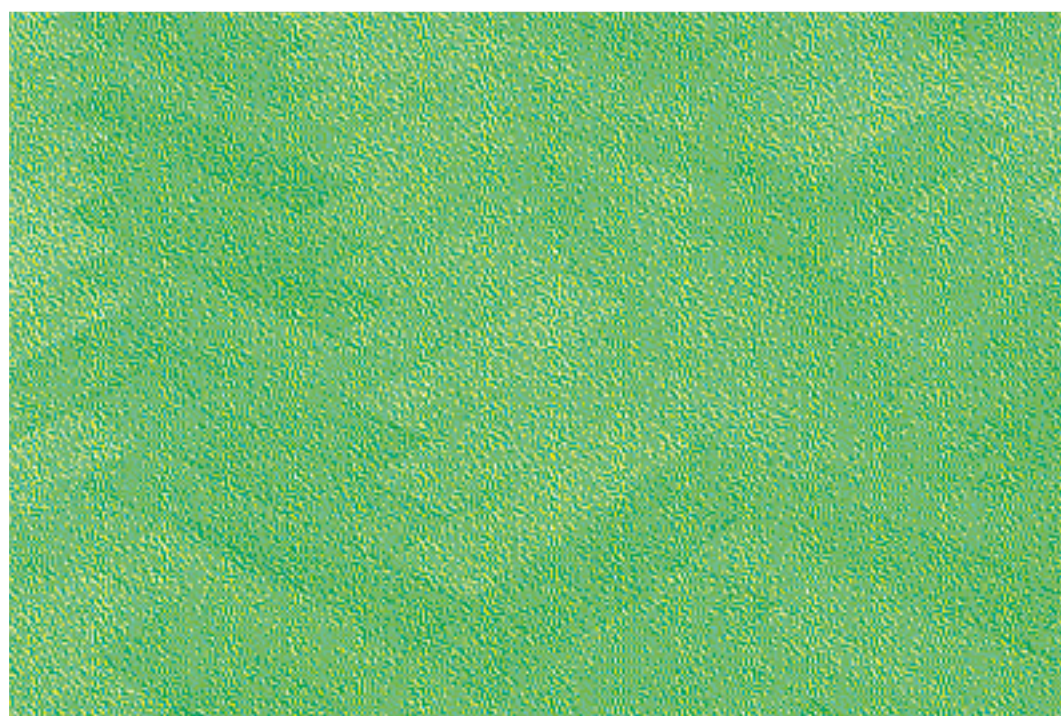
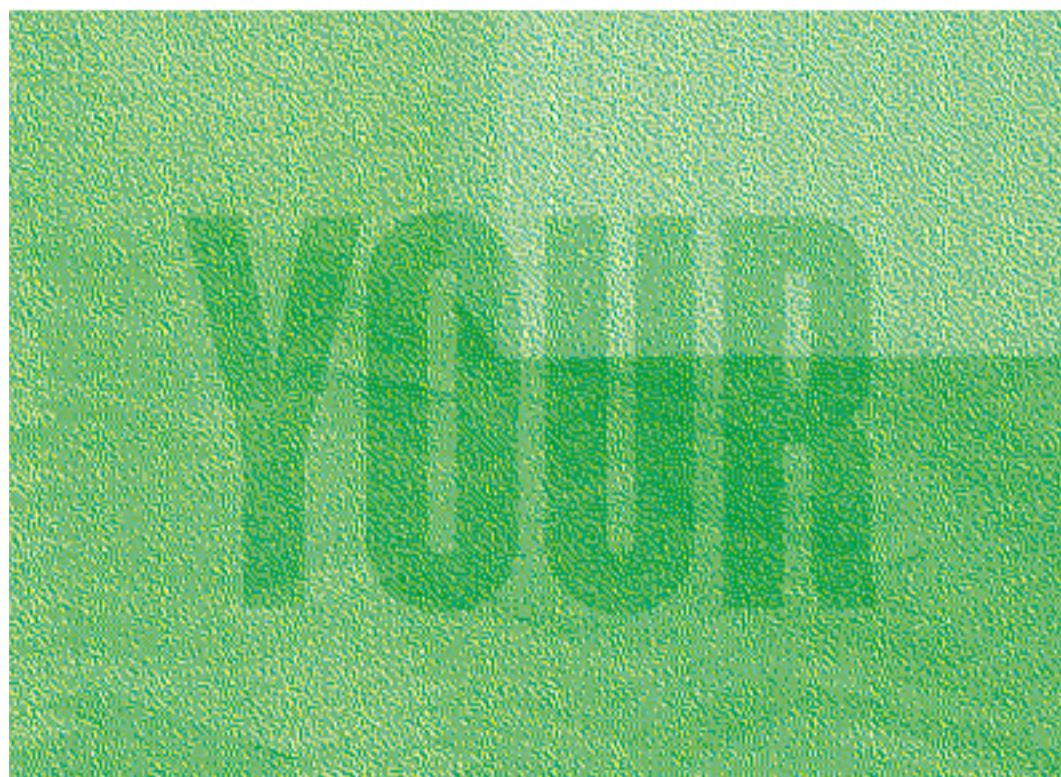


West Space—



The Today Your Love project explores the myriad ways that artists approach practice. West Space is interested in a more dynamic and responsive model for engaging with artists' practices, which acknowledges the development phase as well as final presentation. Today Your Love is conceived as an incubator or laboratory that gives a space for artists to test and explore different ideas. West Space's relocation to a new site, one almost double the size of our old one, has enabled us to excitingly expand our program. We have designated a series of spaces – the back space, the forum space and the library space – to be areas that we program in a more flexible, open-ended manner. We want to encourage onsite activity and hope that the new West Space will be a space for making and thinking as well as a place to view artwork. Today Your Love will launch these spaces as well as a model of more responsive artistic programming at West Space.

Over 2009 and 2010 West Space explored ways to enable artists' practices that are process-based, collaborative, and of different durations and diverse forms. This resulted in a series of projects including Tomorrow the World, a festival of experimental audiovisual, performance and

The *Today Your Love* projects will often work on a different timeframe to our other exhibition programs. We have listed here the 'in residence' dates for each project, however opening dates and times will vary. We encourage you to check our website for up-to-date information about each project.

westspace.org.au

PROJECT 1

Born To Rule

Nick Waddell

Dates: 28 July - 6 August 2011

Opening: 6-9pm, 28 July 2011

The greatest monarch on the proudest throne, is obliged to sit upon his own arse, he that lives upon hope, dies farting – Benjamin Franklin

Memory is essential to the formation of the present. Recourse to the past means that we have greater familiarity with the present and orientation within that present.

Tradition relies upon a preservation of the past as well as a restoration of 'lost' value. We value the past, but from the vantage point of a supposedly progressive present.

If the recent Royal Wedding has taught us anything, it is that being 'born to rule' is an outdated and absurd methodology.

In *Born To Rule*, Nick Waddell will be leading a team of assistants who will delete images of the Royal Wedding by ruling them out.

Nick Waddell graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Drawing) from the VCA in 2009 and was awarded The Orloff Family Award, the Alliance Francaise Award, and the John Vickory Scholarship. He has recently exhibited in New York at The Division of Human Works gallery in Brooklyn, and was featured in the 2009 Blake Prize *Director's Cut* exhibition. He has held thirteen solo exhibitions since 2002 as well as exhibiting in numerous group shows.

PROJECT 2

Simone Weil: Decreation

Marcus Steinweg (Berlin), Jalal Toufic (Lebanon, Berlin), Miranda Fricker (London), Keith Wilson (London), Janet Burchill and Jennifer McCamley (Melbourne), Louise Burchill (Paris), Jessica Whyte (Melbourne), Mireille Astore (Sydney), Justin Clemens (Melbourne), Hélène Frichot (Melbourne), Domenico De Clario (Rome, Melbourne), Daniel Gustav Cramer (Berlin), Haris Epaminonda (Nicosia, Berlin), Pip Stokes (Melbourne), Michael Needham (Melbourne), Nela Trifkovic (Melbourne) and David Howell (Melbourne), Anastasia Klose (Melbourne), Alexander Garcia Duttman (London).
Curated by Elizabeth Presa.

Dates: 8 August - 3 September 2011

Celebration: 6-8pm, 25 August 2011

Decreation: to make something created pass into the uncreated.

Destruction: to make something created pass into nothingness. A blameworthy substitute for decreation – Simone Weil

Decreation is a project between artists, philosophers and writers, dedicated to the work and thought of Simone Weil.

A philosopher, political activist and mystic, Simone Weil (1909-1943) conducted both thought and action without compromise. The incisiveness of her address, the intensity of her vision, and the 'excess' of her life make Weil an exemplary figure with whom to pursue an exploration of the themes of art, sacrifice and transcendence.

Decreation is an exhibition of small mementos, artworks, diagrams and texts displayed within a small recreated 'chapel' based on the Chapel of St Francis of Assisi, The Porziuncola, housed in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Umbria. This project will also include a series of related events and seminars on Simone Weil led by people whose work has been influenced by her.

This exhibition and project forms part of a larger Art Philosophy Project based at the Victorian College of the Arts' Centre for Ideas and is supported by The Sidney Myer Foundation.

PROJECT 3

Drift

David Mutch & friends – Drift

Dates: 5-25 September 2011

Celebration: 6-8pm, 20 September 2011

Situationist theorist Guy Debord defines the *dérive* (drift) as 'a mode of experimental behaviour linked to the conditions of urban society: a technique of rapid passage through varied ambiances.'

Drift is a series of undirected walks through the city. According to psycho-geographic theory, we are subconsciously guided by the subtle aesthetics of our built environment, seeking authentic experiences of our world.

Mechanised modes of travel disorient us and fragment our reality into a collection of micro-environments. By removing the frame of the windscreen or tram window and traversing Melbourne on foot, Mutch hopes to break down the restrictions of urban planning and uncover the sublime beauty of our city, experiencing it anew.

The walks will be undertaken in small groups, and our findings will culminate as material for a collaborative body of work to be exhibited as part of *Today Your Love*.

David Mutch's practice encompasses sculptural installation, video, photography and sound. His current work documents a search for secularly spiritual sites and experiences in contemporary urban environments. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Why Did Aliens Build the Pyramids?* (Beam Contemporary, 2011); *Inverse Universe* (Rearview, 2011); and *The Tourists* (Seventh, 2010).

PROJECT 4

Alternate

Jessica Scott & Alice Hui-Sheng Chang

Dates: 26 September – 7 October 2011

Alternate is a voice and video installation and performance. *Alternate* is a collaboration between two artists who have been working in very different forms with the female voice. With a history of making complementary works for each other in alternating mediums (sound to video, video from sound), this short residency and developmental process will focus on creating an integrated installation performance departing from Alice's vocal improvisation: live and screened, acoustic and projected, spontaneous and fragmented. Live and video bodies will redefine one another on alternate trajectories.

The outcome will be an objectification of live performance, and a live performance of an object in a one-night only developmental showing.

Jessie Scott is a video artist and founding member of Tape Projects.

Alice Hui-Sheng Chang has been improvising with extended vocal technique since 2003, screaming primal and vulnerable states of being with silence between breaths.

PROJECT 5

A Bunch of Twos

Camilla Hannan and Eamon Sprod

Front Space

Dates:

Friday 7.30-9pm, 30 September 2011

Friday 7.30-9pm, 7 October 2011

Friday 7.30-9pm, 14 October 2011

Friday 7.30-9pm, 21 October 2011

A series of four evening performances by local sound and visual artists working in duos curated by Eamon Sprod and Camilla Hannan.

Over four consecutive Friday evenings, West Space will present live performances from local sound and visual artists. The artists will work to a particular theme to be decided upon in consultation. The objective of the series is to put together artists who may not usually work together but who will come together to create a new performance experience.

Camilla Hannan and Eamon Sprod have been working in the area of sound installation over the last decade. They have worked together on a number of projects and co-curated a number of events including for the *Liquid Architecture Sound Art Festival* (Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane) and the *Tomorrow The World Festival* (West Space, Melbourne).

sound art that ran for three weeks in 2009, and The West Wing, a project space that operated out of Melbourne Central shopping complex across 2010-11. These projects enabled us to present different types of artistic activity – on-site studio activity, discursive programs, events and performances – alongside the highly resolved exhibitions of 'finished' work, which have comprised West Space's core artistic program. Today Your Love is the next iteration in this series (and one which also borrows its title from a song by the Ramones).

The Today Your Love project comprises fourteen discrete projects created by a group of imaginative and talented artists. When we invited them to be involved, we encouraged them to develop 'in proposition' style projects where final outcomes may be unknown. We encouraged risk-taking and experimentation, and stressed that we did not expect them to exhibit a fully resolved and highly finished suite of works. We suggested that potential outcomes could take any form and they could go for any duration – from a few hours up to a number of weeks.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australia Council for the Today Your Love project.

PROJECT 6

SPAM HUT

Gavan Blau and Rowan McNaught

Dates: 10-16 October 2011

SPAM HUT is an installation and online publication project.

- > Our image generation techniques are inspired by leading market capture research > and are proven to get results.
- > SPAM HUT reclaims the potential of digital communication on the level of micro-practice
- > SPAM HUT can show you how to take your form-substance dialectics immaterial!
- > • renowned digi-concept managerialism
- > • hi-process development advancement
- > • Svensson-Uebonetto Institute accredited, leading online email specialists
- > • health benefits of proto-webformalism keeps you STRONGER FOR LONGER
- > Keep in touch with the people who matter most to your website!
- > superb quality, exceptionally hi-speed email, Australia wide

Gavan Blau lives and works in Melbourne. His work has a strong collaborative focus and primarily consists of installation and immaterial outcomes. In 2010 he exhibited collaborative works at Techno Park and Sunshine&Grease.

Rowan McNaught lives and works in Melbourne. In his cross-disciplinary practice he utilises video, sculpture, sound and the web. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. This is Gavan and Rowan's first collaborative visual work, having previously worked together on musical projects.

PROJECT 7

The Half-Asleep Pilgrim

Adam Cruickshank

Dates: 17 October – 5 November 2011

Celebration: 6-8pm, 27 October 2011

The Half-Asleep Pilgrim is the title of a published work, which will be entirely developed during the three-week exhibition period. Each day the gallery is open, during normal opening hours, Adam will turn up, sit down and write/design a publication. An assemblage of narrative pieces, snippets of conversation with visitors, excerpts from other texts and collage both written and visual will come together in an aggregation of references. The book's ending will be determined on the last day of the exhibition rather than by any demand of narrative or design. The exhibition space itself will be transformed into a makeshift reading library, a communal work area where visitors are encouraged to sit, read and talk. The material for the reading library is made from the artist's own collection, borrowed books from other libraries and contributions by other Melbourne artists and friends and friends of friends. This collection forms material for the production of *The Half-Asleep Pilgrim* as well as a unique resource for the interest of visitors and jumping off points for discussion.

Adam Cruickshank is a multi-disciplinary artist living in Melbourne. He has exhibited internationally and extensively throughout Australia. He is a current post-graduate candidate at Monash University.

PROJECT 8

Then & Now – the office of fixed deferrals (Back in 5)

Patrick Pound

Dates: 7-25 November 2011

Closing: 6-8pm, 24 November 2011

For three weeks the artist will set up an office where collected photographs, postcards, record covers and ephemera capture time's passing. From a set of 12 postcards of a single floral clock – each showing a different time, to pairs of found 'before and after' photographs, the office will become an uncanny register of time. Then, another amusing logic will emerge from these documents. From a snap of a house truck in front of a matching house, to found photos of anonymous folk who resemble famous people, the collected ephemera will amount to an uncanny index not only of time's relentless melt, but of chance connections in the shuffle of things.

Patrick Pound is an artist based in Melbourne.

PROJECT 9

Untitled Project #1

Michael Ciavarella, Alex Ippoliti and Ross Coulter

Dates: 28 November – 17 December 2011

Closing: 3-5pm, 17 December 2011

'Imagine something mysterious rises to the surface on a summer afternoon – shows itself and is gone before it can be identified... By the end of the afternoon, the shape – whatever it was – can barely be remembered. No one can be made to state it was absolutely thus and so. Nothing can be conjured of its size. In the end the sighting is rejected, becoming something only dimly thought on: dreadful but unreal... Thus, whatever rose towards the light is left to sink unnamed: a shape that passes slowly through a dream. Waking, all we remember is the awesome presence, while a shadow lying dormant in the twilight whispers from the other side reason: I am here. I wait.' – Timothy Findley, *Famous Last Words*.

Michael Ciavarella, Alex Ippoliti and Ross Coulter graduated from the VCA several years ago where they studied Fine Art. While individually they have exhibited locally and internationally, this is the first time the three of them have come together to undertake a project. They collectively share an interest in painting, building, balusters, columns, concrete car parks and the fly fishing practice ponds in Fairfield.

PROJECT 10

Stay Home Sakoku: The Hikikomori Project

Eugenia Lim, Dan West, Yumi Umiumare and David Wolf

A series of private artist workshops throughout 2011 and a cross-disciplinary performance to be presented in March 2012

Stay Home Sakoku: The Hikikomori Project is a networked performance exploring the Japanese phenomenon of *hikikomori* or 'shut in' syndrome. *Hikikomori* confine themselves to their rooms for months and, in extreme cases, years on end. Without physical contact, *hikikomori* exist in isolation. Yet, many survive on a diet of pop culture and live a networked existence through an online community of forums, games and chatrooms. Over 3.6 million young people, mostly males, are *hikikomori* and at 3% of Japan's population (according to a Japan government website via Huffingtonpost), *hikikomori* cannot be ignored. Over a twelve-month period, Eugenia Lim will work with Dan West, Yumi Umiumare and David Wolf onsite at West Space and offsite in creative workshops or 'hiki-labs' exploring artistic responses and experimentation to the *hikikomori* theme. In March 2012, Eugenia will inhabit West Space for one week in a *hikikomori*-styled bedroom installation and invite the wider community to engage with her through a bespoke online website or 'hiki portal'.

PROJECTS TO BE PRESENTED IN 2012:

Torie Nimmervoll and Jason Maling

Greatest Hits

Kellie Wells and Hannah Raisin

Sam George

West Space design by Brad Haylock and Chase & Galley.
Poster design by Chase & Galley.