

LOOSLEY SPEAKING

23 MARCH - 27 APRIL 2013



LOOSELY SPEAKING

RUTH BUCHANAN (NZ), SARAH CROWEST AND ADELLE MILLS

CURATED BY PIP WALLIS

EXHIBITION DATES : 23 MARCH – 27 APRIL 2013

Isn't this entire, unending world constructed by the understanding out of incomprehensibility or chaos? [Schlegel]

Loosely Speaking makes a case for not-understanding. Language and coded behaviour can be restrictive in their clarity and this exhibition defies concrete logic in favour of indeterminacy. Ruth Buchanan, Sarah Crowest and Adelle Mills extend the gap between comprehension and confusion, unfolding the potential for subversion and new ways of knowing that exist in the abstract.

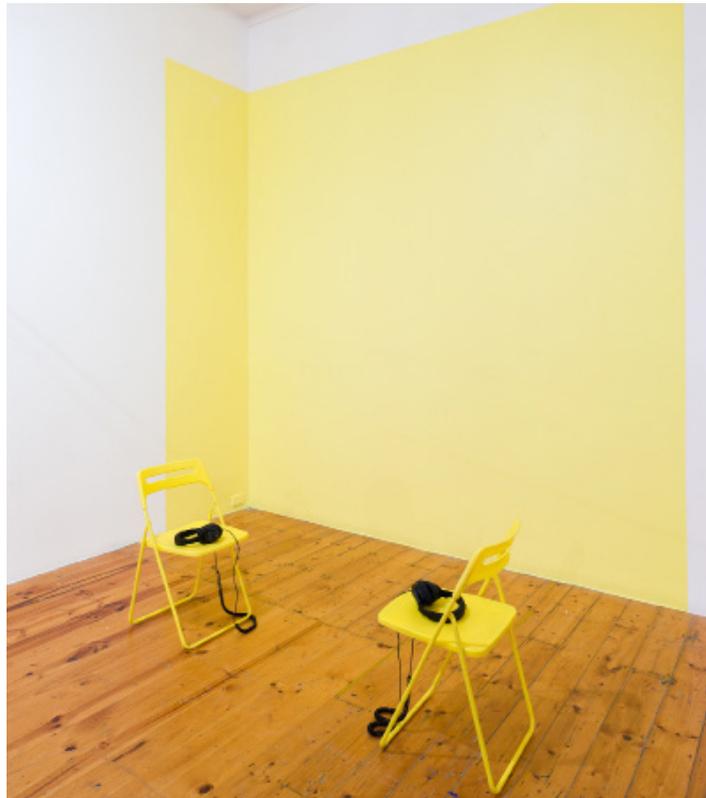
Featuring work by three women, *Loosely Speaking* considers the politics of language. In each of these artists' work abstraction and indecipherability are used as a polemic strategy of resistance – one that defies the authoritarian logic of definition and upends the inherent phallocentrism of language.

The artists use sound, video and sculpture to perform quietly radical gestures that point to the uncertain space between subjects. *Loosely Speaking* occupies this space and replaces the logic of semiotics with the poetics of art making where metaphor is material, syntax is spatial strategy and composition becomes choreography.

The work of Berlin based New Zealand artist Ruth Buchanan fractures the logics of language and speech. In her intimate audio work, *Sculptor*, 2010, Buchanan compares conversation to shifting weather patterns, and *Intractable*, 2010/2011, slides an instructional library notice toward an absurd poem that laughs wryly at the instability of language. The fabric installation *Cast a light across it*, 2012, translates poetic devices of metaphor and syntax into spatial material and gently mocks our failed attempts to corral the world into categories and certainties.

Melbourne based artist Sarah Crowest's practice is driven by intuition. She follows impulses beyond the realm of understanding in the faith that they will generate new ways of knowing. Crowest's works are a form of social mapping, composed of scraps of fabric that the artist cuts from other people's clothes at social events. The titles of each work is a conglomeration of subjects: # 4 (*Thomas Rentmeister, Kerrie Poliness, Brennan Olver, Matthew Linde, Henry Jock Walker, Lynn Thompson, Simon Maidment, Veronica Kent, Justin Clemens, Lauren Bliss, Simone Kennedy, Rosemary Trockel, Aldo Iacobelli, Sophie Knezic, Isadora Vaughan, Scott Mitchell, Charlie Sofo, Oliver van der Lugt, Dan Bell, Bridget Currie, Anna Miller-Yeamon, Victor Kuskoff, Danica Chappell, Philomene Magers, Larry Gagosian*), 2012.

In a new video work, *acting doing*, 2013, Melbourne artist Adelle Mills lays bare the predetermined modes of action and communication that are dictated by the spaces we move through. In this work four bodies repeat each others' gestures through a live video loop that reveals the 'gap' of interpretation, or misinterpretation, that lurks in all our interactions.



List of Works:

Adelle Mills
acting doing, 2013
 double channel video

Sarah Crowest
4 (Thomas Rentmeister, Kerrie Poliness, Brennan Olver, Matthew Linde, Henry Jock Walker, Lynn Thompson, Simon Maidment, Veronica Kent, Justin Clemens, Lauren Bliss, Simone Kennedy, Rosemary Trockel, Aldo Iacobelli, Sophie Knezic, Isadora Vaughan, Scott Mitchell, Charlie Sofo, Oliver van der Lugt, Dan Bell, Bridget Currie, Anna Miller-Yeaman, Victor Kuskoff, Danica Chappell, Philomene Magers, Larry Gagosian), 2012
 linen, mixed cloth

16 (Nikos Pantazopoulos, Adele Varcoe, Leo Greenfield, Sarah Goffman, Bianca Hester, Andrei Davidoff, Debbie Pryor, Jake Walker, Pip Wallis, Katie Lee, Marcin Wotsit, Sam Songailo, Leith McGregor, Eliza Dyball, Sarah Wall, Melissa Keys, Justine Khamara, Jürgen Bock, Agostinho Gonçalves, Bridget Noone, Bim Crowest, Leo DiPietro, Don Letts, Mikey Kutschbach, Shae Nagorcka, Saskia Schut, FAT, S!X, Fergus Binns, Jonas Ropponen, George Egerton-Warburton, Emily Cormack, Jacqueline Doughty, Brendan McCleary...), 2013
 linen, mixed cloth, spray paint

Ruth Buchanan
Sculptor, 2010
 Audio installation

Intractable, 2010/2011
 C type print

Cast a light across it, 2012
 Cloth, hand dyed rope
 Courtesy of Hopkinson Mossman, Auckland



INTRACTABLE

No touching
No fingerlicking
No touching

intractable

No touching
No

No touching
No fingerlicking
No touching

intractable

No No touching
No No No fingerlicking
No No No No touching

intractable

Touching
Fingerlicking
Touching

intractability

As much touching
As much fingerlicking] as possible

As much as possible
As much as is possible
As much as I possibly can] possibility

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Gertrude Contemporary
23 March - 27 April 2013

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Gertrude Contemporary is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria, the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding advisory body, and by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Image captions: Front top:
Ruth Buchanan
Sculptor, 2010
Audio installation

Front Bottom:
Adelle Mills
acting doing, 2013, double channel video

Sarah Crowest

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Middle: Install shot of *Loosley Speaking* Gertrude Contemporary, 22 March - 27 April 2013

Back: Ruth Buchanan, *Intractable*, 2010/2011, C type print
All Images photo credit: Jake Walker

ARTS VICTORIA

