

NOW & THEN 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLD MASONIC HALL TO HOST OK GALLERY'S *NOW & THEN 12* SYMPOSIUM

Where: Old Masonic Hall, 6 Broadway Nedlands, 6009

When: September 29th, 2012. 10am to 3pm

Presenters: Acquittal Report, Dale Buckley and Kate Mullen, Daphne Major Research Office, Loren Kronemyer, John Mateer, Katie Lenanton, and Leigh Robb.

More details soon to be announced.

Free entry. RSVP is essential to: nowandthen@oktachoron.com before Sept 25th

In connection with Katie Lenanton's survey of Western Australian contemporary practice, *Here & Now 12* at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, OK Gallery will host a day-long symposium discussing a variety of relationships between artistic practice and critical discourse in Western Australia. Held nearby Lawrence Wilson in the grand and long-empty Old Masonic Hall on Broadway, *Now & Then 12* will explore intergenerational dialogues, alternative means of written discourse and the complex relationships between distance and written history. It aims to start an ongoing discussion about the role of chronicling Western Australian contemporary art practice, and the potential of critical discourse to contribute to the production of and understanding of Western Australian art history.

Gemma Weston, who will chair the symposium with OK co-directors Jamie Macchiusi and Andrew Varano, describes the process of developing the symposium as one of 'constant re-evaluation':

"*Now & Then 12* evolved out of a desire to rediscover some of what we felt to be a 'invisible' Western Australian art history, especially in relation to what we and our peers were doing in Here&Now. But we began putting this project together when OK itself was quite new – close to a year ago now - and when the visual arts landscape in Western Australia was quite different and uncertain. The year since has seen Perth artists go from strength to strength both here and overseas, despite the closure of a number of 'old guard' galleries and we ended up being pretty frustrated with the really conservative and

negative discussion about Perth's perceived flaws. We thought that contributing to a discussion about something 'missing' seemed unproductive, so our goals for the symposium ended up changing somewhat."

In keeping with the initial desire to connect 'now' to 'then', the symposium will feature presentations from both early career and well established Western Australian artists. John Mateer, who has a long history of arts publishing will revisit some of his early texts in a contemporary context, and two Perth expats currently studying in the Netherlands will unveil a film project that reconsiders geographical distance and the 'brain drain' in light of a globally connected arts industry.

"We want to try to change the usual conversation, to look at more productive ways that discussion and criticism can contribute, or have contributed to art in the past. Plus, while we were researching, that 'invisible' history proved fairly easy to uncover if you just put the effort in and ask some questions."

This project is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.



Australian Government



About OK Gallery:

Directed by Jamie Macchiusi, Andrew Varano and Gemma Weston, OK Gallery is a Western Australian art space representing and exhibiting a new generation of contemporary artists.

5/1 Forbes Road NORTHBRIDGE 6003
Tues - Fri: 11am – 6pm Sat – Sun: 12pm – 5pm
or by appointment.

www.oktachoron.com

For more information about the presenters please visit:
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