

PRESS RELEASE

RUBICON ARI
PRESENTS

IT HANGS WITH RATTLESNAKES AND RUBBISH BY CHANTAL FRASER



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Next month Rubicon ARI presents the video work *It Hangs With Rattlesnakes and Rubbish*, a solo exhibition by Brisbane artist multi-media artist Chantal Fraser. The dates of the exhibition are from 4 December 2013 – 21 December 2013 (12pm – 6pm Wednesday – Saturday).

The artwork *It Hangs With Rattlesnakes and Rubbish* and is from a wider video series called *O a'u*. This collection of performance footage was undertaken in the San Geronio Pass, near Palm Springs and located at the entrance of Coachella Valley, California. One of the windiest places in the west, the San Geronio Pass Wind Farm, along with having sacred native significance, provides much of the energy for Southern California. A series of performance works were filmed amongst the fluctuating noise levels and forceful winds generated from the turbines.

Various sound plays over the moving image. Aggressive thunder from the wind, intervals of silence and drums are played at different sections of the visuals. The video contains footage of the artist adorned and draped in a material object, however the object is not 'worn' in its traditional manner but rather playfully and intentionally morphed. The images provide a cultural contradiction in their way of use, i.e stretched around eyes, covering of face, tightened around neck etc. At one point the clothing is allowed to 'float' atop the front of the body, its movement and placement dictated by the force and direction of the wind created from the turbines.

The clothing/adornment creates many contradicting silhouettes of culture, gender, moments of pleasure versus moments of discomfort and displacement. Through this physical challenge to nature, the adornment is forced to act as security/comfort, a mask, coverage and at times a menace.

Chantal Fraser uses adornment as an aesthetic and conceptual tool for material exploration and production. The work explores the creation of cross cultural connotations and representations through silhouette and the embodiment of adornment, and more significantly cultural adornment. Fraser's practice explores ornamentation as an aesthetic resolution to identity and individuality.

Fraser is a Brisbane based multi-media artist with a BFA (Honours) from Queensland University of Technology. Fraser's practice engages in pushing the boundaries of adornment through mediums such as installation, performance and digital media. Fraser has exhibited nationally at various institutions such as QUT Art Museum, University of Queensland Art Museum and Brisbane City Hall (now Museum of Brisbane). Fraser has also been included in exhibitions internationally at institutions such as Harris Gallery, La Verne, California USA, La Cité internationale des Arts, Paris, Les Brassieres in Belgium and Tjibaou Cultural Centre, New Caledonia.

Rubicon ARI is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 12pm to 6pm. For more information and press photographs please contact Neil Shurgold at 0435 152 322 or mail@rubiconari.com.au.