

NAVA Featured Artist of the Month
Interview by Kim Hirst
30.04.12

How would you describe your art practice?

I interact with spaces through photography, sound, video and installation. My practice investigates the experience of presence within spaces that have been reinvented.

What draws you to create work around reinvented spaces?

I'm interested in how spaces hold memories and stories from the past in their physical structure, and how this lingering presence shifts over time. Installation and interaction with spaces is a key component to the work I am making.

How did you first become interested in these spaces?

I became interested in reinvented spaces while I was undertaking my Honours degree at the former Callan Park Lunatic Asylum, now Sydney College of the Arts. I was drawn to the sense of emptiness and loneliness I felt within the buildings, and placed this feeling on the sites history as a mental health facility, infamous for its demise and controversy. This interest in the space lead me to research the history of Callan Park, and uncover a family connection to the site. Through the NSW Government State Medical Records, I traced the decline of my great, great-grandfather over 100 years ago, after his attempted suicide and subsequent death at Callan Park. I felt a great sadness in uncovering his untold story, and the need to make a work in response to the space became apparent.

What do you enjoy about the installation aspect of your work?

I'm really interested in how installation art has the potential to activate a space, and configure new spaces from which to think. I'm also interested in aural architecture, and methods of understanding space through sound. Sound art and spatial practices are intertwined so beautifully. What I most enjoy is the challenge in articulating this feeling of presence through installation, and often what resonates strongest with me is the silence that remains.

Do you have a favourite work or a work you particularly enjoyed creating?

Most recently I've been enjoying working with Lucas Davidson for our upcoming show *Between Us*. It's been such an exciting process working together and drawing from one another's practice to make something new. *Between Us* combines the photographic still with the moving image to create a conversation between our works.

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working with video, exploring ideas presence and absence, stillness and motion. My new work is focused on the relationship between performer and voyeur in dance.

Where can we see your work?

Between Us is open from Wednesday 9th May - Sunday 27th May at Paper Plane Gallery, 727 Darling St, Rozelle.

<http://www.visualarts.net.au/gallery/ellacondon>