

brisbanedialogues

Talk on MSN, 8pm.

Curated by Dani Woolbank for Accidentally Annie Street Space, POW showcased a motley collection of performance-based works that materialized at different times and within different areas of this residential-cum-gallery space. What follows is an unedited conversation, held on MSN Messenger, on Monday 8 June 2009, between members of the Brisbane collaborative group The Crash Crew about their contribution to the exhibition.

Kristine says: (11:07:17 AM) hi, how are you?

rohan says: (11:07:44 AM) hello, ok.

rohan says: (11:07:48 AM) how about you?

Kristine says: (11:08:06 AM) good.

rohan says: (11:08:25 AM) i had two shows this weekend and it was really exhausting

Kristine says: (11:09:01 AM) great! That must be a bit exhausting i'm sure. Was it with your band?.

rohan says: (11:09:21 AM) saturday was with my band and sunday was solo

Kristine says: (11:09:46 AM) nice, was it somewhere in brisbane.

rohan says: (11:10:50 AM) saturday was in mitchelton in an abandoned police safe house. it had been squatted in 5 or 6 months ago and they left all their belongs so we made a fort out of a strangers clothing and played in their room with their bed and tv and stuff

Kristine says: (11:11:50 AM) sounds great, was it called the squat show or something like that?.

rohan says: (11:12:14 AM) yeah, northside squat

Kristine says: (11:12:55 AM) do you think the former squatters knew there was a concert there?.

rohan says: (11:13:59 AM) no. the last news paper was from october last year and it didn't look like anyone went in. we left the fort up though and we're going to go back in 3 months and hopefully it'll still be up

Kristine says: (11:15:11 AM) hehe, would be funny if the squatters came back and found the fort you made.

rohan says: (11:15:52 AM) yeah, I hope they won't be angry cause it's all their clothing. but some of it was blood stained and stuff so we washed it, maybe we did them a favour.

David has been added to the conversation.

Kristine says: (11:16:20 AM) do you know why they had left?

Kristine says: (11:16:25 AM) hi david!

David says: (11:16:32 AM) hi!.

rohan says: (11:16:42 AM) hello

David says: (11:16:50 AM) hi.

rohan says: (11:17:15 AM) not sure why, they had all the winning lottery numbers from 2007, maybe they struck lucky?

Kristine says: (11:17:53 AM) hehe

David has left the conversation.

rohan says: (11:20:33 AM) I haven't done any sculptures this week, but I've been thinking about pegs and plates and cups and stuff. maybe adding a sound element to the kinetic sculpture

rohan says: (11:22:22 AM) has david left?

Kristine says: (11:22:47 AM) maybe there's something wrong with his computer.

David has been added to the conversation.

David says: (11:25:29 AM) had to change computer. at an internet cafe. back now.

rohan says: (11:26:26 AM) that's ok. I just told kristine, I haven't done any work on sculptures but was thinking about pegs, plates and glasses. Maybe adding sounds to the sculpture(s)

David says: (11:27:12 AM) by playing the objects?.

rohan says: (11:28:06 AM) having bits (like pegs) that after a while fall on objects (like plates or glasses) on the sculpture and over time putting the pegs back up. so they fall again. thinking of other elements as well

David says: (11:28:42 AM) quiet sounds?.

rohan says: (11:29:17 AM) maybe. it depends how far the pegs fall. no louder than a restaurant

Kristine says: (11:29:32 AM) like everyday sounds?.

rohan says: (11:30:19 AM) could put instruments underneath but I was thinking household objects to stay in theme.

David says: (11:31:35 AM) i did some crappy video experiments... maybe i'll upload them now

David says: (11:32:30 AM) i did one with an instrument and some household objects

Kristine says: (11:32:30 AM) did some things with my family yesterday aswell

Kristine says: (11:33:06 AM) ok, can you upload them at the cafe?

David says: (11:33:16 AM) yep will start

David says: (11:58:50 AM) just watched your youtube videos.... the guy sleeping at the piano was funny

David says: (12:10:54 PM) sent you a word document on hotmail with pictures in

Kristine says: (12:13:52 PM) ok.

rohan says: (12:16:55 PM) i especially love the last page, bubbles and fan/balancing game next to the sink

David says: (12:17:30 PM) kind of a crappy balancing game....

rohan says: (12:18:11 PM) i really like it, that's the sort of thing I've been thinking of, except the things are meant to fall, it's just how long they will last

David says: (12:22:09 PM) gravity?

David says: (12:22:40 PM) are you interested in gravity?.

rohan says: (12:23:34 PM) sorry, my brother needed to grab something. yes,

rohan says: (12:24:15 PM) it's a bit like ross or joel or any sound "scultors" but i don't want to use electronics¹.

rohan says: (12:24:22 PM) like fans and stuff

David says: (12:24:50 PM) something i really liked about Kristine's dad falling asleep on the piano, is that it seems to be exploring gravity....

rohan says: (12:25:32 PM) I haven't seen the video yet. will check it later, when it won't be disturbed.

David says: (12:26:33 PM) perhaps it would be funny, if we were slumped around the place on top of things... exploring gravity, like kristines dad?

Kristine says: (12:26:35 PM) i think the guitar and the ideas of patting a pillow for a long time

Kristine says: (12:26:48 PM) is nice

David says: (12:27:18 PM) walking around with the guitar?

Kristine says: (12:27:44 PM) the decorated guitar

Kristine says: (12:27:51 PM) but also walking around

Kristine says: (12:28:13 PM) like you are home alone practising.

rohan says: (12:28:20 PM) prepared guitar is big in the music world.

rohan says: (12:28:24 PM) sticking stuff in the strings

Kristine says: (12:29:43 PM) a bit of freejazz in the living room

David says: (12:30:44 PM) e.g. lying on the couch with the guitar on the floor, plucking one string, while watching tv.

rohan says: (12:31:56 PM) my friend used to play through movies when we watched with him. really annoying.

rohan says: (12:32:54 PM) do you want to be playing music for the performance?

David says: (12:33:30 PM) so, what kind of performance would it be? One action repeated for an hour? such as patting a pillow?.

rohan says: (12:33:55 PM) balancing game when something falls put it back on.

rohan says: (12:33:56 PM) ??



The Crash Crew, *Place all your personal belongings on the end of a balancing plank of wood with your share mate*, performance detail, 2009 (photo: Erika Scott).

Kristine says: (12:34:22 PM) you can balance several domestic objects perhaps

Kristine says: (12:34:34 PM) like the dish between legs

Kristine says: (12:34:45 PM) a bit like 1 min sculptures

Kristine says: (12:35:10 PM) and maybe also have a couch there...?

David says: (12:35:24 PM) couch is a nice prop

David says: (12:35:43 PM) so, the sound would be something that you didn't try for, it just happens when objects fall?

Kristine says: (12:35:48 PM) maybe you can have breaks sitting on the couch.

Kristine says: (12:36:16 PM) yeah, maybe when you can't balance it anymore, just let it fall.

rohan says: (12:36:17 PM) sorry, "the sound would be something that you didn't try for, it just happens when objects fall?" yeah.

rohan says: (12:37:24 PM) sorry, instrument/object balancing

Kristine says: (12:38:18 PM) maybe you could both bring things from your homes to annie st, and it would be a bit like the 2 of you are moving in together

rohan says: (12:39:05 PM) cool. that would be funny if the performance starts with us bringing in personal items

David says: (12:39:09 PM) yeah that's a nice idea, moving in together.



The Crash Crew, Place all your personal belongings on the end of a balancing plank of wood with your share mate, performance detail, 2009 (photo: Erika Scott).

Kristine says: (12:39:45 PM) and you are balancing things to sort things out

David says: (12:40:51 PM) would it be funny to have an actual see-saw. in the middle of the loungeroom? to balance on either side?.

Kristine says: (12:41:03 PM) yep, maybe the performance could start with you guys coming with a removal van.

rohan says: (12:41:13 PM) maybe use a ironing board?.

rohan says: (12:41:17 PM) as the see saw

Kristine says: (12:41:36 PM) carrying the couch in through the door, unpacking cardboard boxes

David says: (12:42:03 PM) moving in might take the full hour...?.

rohan says: (12:42:07 PM) hehehe, should we tell them before hand or surprise them. maybe they'd try and stop us hehe

Kristine says: (12:42:08 PM) see saw is nice

Kristine says: (12:42:27 PM) can make a simple one out of a plank of wood and a box

David says: (12:42:37 PM) perhaps could roll things down the see saw to each other... to create noise with wood?

David says: (12:42:56 PM) yeah or an iron barrel

David says: (12:44:47 PM) would be fun to make a seesaw

Kristine says: (12:45:03 PM) yep, could be nice i think

Kristine says: (12:45:36 PM) would you then put your objects on either side of it

Kristine says: (12:45:54 PM) one rohan side and one david side?

David says: (12:46:07 PM) yeah, i think we should have sides....

rohan says: (12:46:14 PM) ok

David says: (12:46:43 PM) like when people draw a line down the middle of the house

Kristine says: (12:46:50 PM) and then try to even out the weight?

David says: (12:47:12 PM) perhaps we would sit on it too?

Kristine says: (12:52:17 PM) is the see saw to illustrative?

David says: (12:53:07 PM) i think it's interesting using a symbol

David says: (12:53:23 PM) like in a lot of group bonding sessions, they try to pick a symbol....

rohan says: (12:53:34 PM) it might be to illustrative...

David says: (12:53:37 PM) that stands for the whole group, or activity

Kristine says: (12:54:24 PM) it is nice to use "common" symbols that everybody knows about sometimes, it's true.

Kristine says: (12:55:40 PM) but the balancing against a wall and other objects is also nice, and also has a lot of symbolism in it, but it's not as straight forward.

rohan says: (12:56:04 PM) i prefer the balance to the wall over the see saw

Kristine says: (12:58:15 PM) maybe if you balanced things to the wall, floor etc., it would be more an interaction between you guys and the objects. You are working/ collaborating more with them

Kristine says: (1:00:40 PM) but if you worked with the see saw it would be more of a clear task of what you are trying to do. It could be more interesting to watch somehow. Or we can try to make the balancing to the wall a more "clear" task

David says: (1:00:59 PM) i agree that we should have a clear task....

rohan says: (1:01:11 PM) maybe we can collaborate on the balancing kitchen one?

Kristine says: (1:01:20 PM) yep, it could look a bit aimless

David says: (1:01:37 PM) i found it difficult to do that with the wall, because i ran out of ideas. and it's kind of difficult too

David says: (1:02:21 PM) i think a see saw is comedy in itself. Would look so funny in the middle of the lounge room!

Kristine says: (1:02:22 PM) maybe you can have a set of objects that you are meant to (together) get to all lean against the wall at the same time

Kristine says: (1:03:21 PM) but then it's almost enough as an object itself.

Kristine says: (1:03:47 PM) I guess it could be standing there, and the people there could use it

David says: (1:03:48 PM) maybe we could just leave it there for people to use?

Kristine says: (1:04:08 PM) hehe

David says: (1:04:23 PM) great minds... ;)

rohan says: (1:05:29 PM) so you want a narrative arc?

David says: (1:06:11 PM) no, not a narrative...

David says: (1:06:18 PM) maybe opposite of a narrative

rohan says: (1:06:53 PM) something that exists for an hour which can be enjoyed at any point the person starts watching?

David says: (1:07:12 PM) yeah, i guess. something that doesn't have a start or finish

Kristine says: (1:10:02 PM) yep, i guess you have to be able to walk into it at any time

Kristine says: (1:10:20 PM) the see saw could be nice

David says: (1:11:29 PM) maybe it would depend what we did with the see saw?.

rohan says: (1:12:16 PM) try and make it level?

Kristine says: (1:12:27 PM) maybe try and balance each other out, but with as many objects as possible. Let it stand even in the end

David says: (1:12:48 PM) tht's a really nice balancing game... trying to make it level.... could be done in a number of ways

Kristine says: (1:13:39 PM) and it's a work where people can come and go, follow the process during the evening

Kristine says: (1:14:13 PM) maybe sometimes it would fall over, making a loud sound

David says: (1:14:28 PM) maybe the plank is a bit precarious on the axis?

David says: (1:24:52 PM) so would we still have a couch?

Kristine says: (1:25:03 PM) maybe not then

Kristine says: (1:25:17 PM) although the couch idea was nice too

David says: (1:25:36 PM) but we would still bring in our possessions?

Kristine says: (1:26:09 PM) i think it would be nice if it was your things

Kristine says: (1:26:46 PM) can you think of any domestic object that could have a similar function as a see saw?.

rohan says: (1:27:04 PM) the old time scales ??

David says: (1:27:26 PM) yeah, butter scales.... back to making a cake!

Kristine says: (1:27:31 PM) a broken table

David says: (1:28:37 PM) like a big prop?

David says: (1:29:18 PM) michael hill used to have a door on top of two trestles as his table

Kristine says: (1:32:16 PM) a long kitchen bench or table

Kristine says: (1:32:47 PM) a piece of a wall (planks of wood nailed together)

David says: (1:32:47 PM) what would you put as the middle bit that it swings on?

David says: (1:33:06 PM) we could perhaps raid a demolished house?

Kristine says: (1:33:22 PM) maybe that squat rohan?.

rohan says: (1:34:27 PM) yeah, there're planks out back. that's quite nasty being big and heavy and splinters, but we could get a plank pretty easily (probably have one at home)

David says: (1:34:50 PM) has that place been demolished yet, or partly?.

rohan says: (1:35:06 PM) the place next door is going to be demolished.

rohan says: (1:35:29 PM) the squat has no apparent plans/use

David says: (1:35:56 PM) is it in michelton?.

rohan says: (1:36:18 PM) yeah. next to the station. I guess we could find a plank in auchenflower just as easily

David says: (1:51:17 PM) how would you describe the task in 20 words or less?

Kristine says: (1:52:18 PM) Try together with one other person to place all your belongings on an balancing plank of wood.

Kristine says: (1:53:10 PM) something like that...

Kristine says: (1:58:21 PM) what should we call it?

Kristine says: (1:58:25 PM) title

David says: (1:59:17 PM) Try together with one other person to place all your belongings on an balancing plank of wood (?)

Kristine says: (1:59:50 PM) o, nice

Kristine says: (2:00:32 PM) maybe try with your housemate to place....²

David says: (2:01:00 PM) yep

David says: (2:01:38 PM) do you think that it would create sounds that you would like rohan?

rohan says: (2:02:04 PM) not really. been trying to think. might have to try harder but currently no.

David says: (2:06:56 PM) could there be possessions that make noise rohan? such as a radio?

rohan says: (2:07:40 PM) i guess so. i was thinking more subtle like in a house (though they have radio's on in a house)

Kristine says: (2:11:29 PM) you could try and place objects rhythmically

David says: (2:16:15 PM) maybe as things got precarious they would fall and make a noise.

rohan says: (2:16:28 PM) yeah it's likely..



The Crash Crew, Place all your personal belongings on the end of a balancing plank of wood with your share mate, performance detail, 2009 (photo: Erika Scott).

Kristine says: (2:18:07 PM) maybe you should just finish when you feel like the work is done

David says: (2:18:38 PM) we don't have to put all our possessions on?

Kristine says: (2:19:22 PM) no, maybe just when you feel that it is balanced out...although the title suggest that you should put them all on

David says: (2:19:51 PM) hopefully we could walk away and it would stay balanced....

David says: (2:20:34 PM) people might steal our cd's....

The Crash Crew consists of Rohan Bridge, David Creed and Kristine Dragland. The collaborative group make three-dimensional, video and sound works. The three artists in the group have a common interest in the poetics of everyday objects and symbols. Through a process based working method, they draw their ideas from their daily lives. The group likes to intervene and create atmospheric works that are humorous, absurd and political.

The Crash Crew have previously exhibited at 23 degrees at Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Shared Sounds, a public art project in Bundaberg, Object, Attack!! at Metro Arts Gallery, Everything Must Go at Raw Space Gallery, and many more.

POW was presented as part of the 2009 exhibition program at Accidentally Annie Street Space, Brisbane / June 19

¹ Ross Manning and Joel Stern.

² The title settled on by *The Crash Crew* was *Place all your personal belongings on the end of a balancing plank of wood with your share mate.*