

HABITS AND HABITAT

Ronald & McDonnell



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Touring Information



ABOUT HABITS AND HABITAT

According to 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics data, '91% of Australia's population lives in urban areas', yet the bush has always held an iconic status as part of the Australian Identity.

In 2010 Performance Space commissioned Patrick Ronald and Shannon McDonell to create a life size photographic diorama of a farm within the CarriageWorks complex to giving visitors not only the opportunity to interact with a constructed scene but also a voyeuristic look into another person's habitat. *Habits and Habitat* investigates cultural transfer, the perception of rural lifestyle and ideals and the connection between the country and the city, questioning the role that the bush plays within today's Australian society to people living in an urban setting.

Habits and Habitat is a micro-to-exact photographic extension of the artists' deepening concerns with change in communities and places that have previously been defined by their relative stability. The project re-presents selected elevations of rooms in a working farmhouse in NSW, in two-dimensional 1:1 scale.

Touring *Habits and Habitat* is an opportunity for the work to return, in a sense to regional parts of Australia. As curator Bec Dean has written in the catalogue essay:

"I became drawn to the almost forensic photographic practice of Patrick Ronald and Shannon McDonell not only from an uncomplicated enjoyment of their very complicated representational methodology and its results, but by the fact of their emotional connection to places: specifically to Australian country towns, which form a large part of their shared experience as young artists..."

MEDIA AND AUDIENCE INTERACTION

The exhibition was attended by over 5000 people during its five week exhibition. The project was immensely popular with members of the general public as it attracts curious viewing and interactive play. The images often became backdrops for staged photographs and other impromptu theatrics by members of the public, and audiences attending this and other events within the complex.

A media booklet with exhibition publicity and documentation is attached.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

The installation of *Habits and Habitat* is simple and can be modified to suit the particular requirements of each venue. At CarriageWorks, due to the height of the foyer roof, the work was suspended from steel wire, shackled to scaffolding pipe that ran through a pocket at the top of each work (images on following page). This system can be modified for your venue. It is also possible to use other hanging systems. The hanging system for Performance Space was designed for the foyer of CarriageWorks which has high traffic and is semi-open to environmental elements such as wind and occasionally rain.

Image descriptions and sizes:

Orange Room "Balmain Tigers"	W 544 cm x H 293cm
Nintendo Room	W 210 cm x H 293cm
White Lounge/Bed	W 454 cm x H 293cm
Hall Doorway	W 180 cm x H 293cm
Hall/Bathroom	W 428 cm x H 293cm
Kitchen	W 428 cm x H 293cm
Laundry/B Veranda	W 272 cm x H 293cm
Toy Room	W 340 cm x H 293cm

* All heights are 310cm including base sleeve.

* Scaffold pipe at the top of the work should be 30 cm longer than the image to allow for the attachment of clamps on either side (15 cm each side).

* The base steel pipe, which runs through the bottom sleeve should be cut to exactly the width of the image. This is a smaller diameter than standard scaffold pipe.

INSTALLATION INVIGILATION

The installation would need to be supported by a volunteer or gallery minder during opening hours, but the work itself is made from durable material and is suitable for non climate controlled gallery environments.

FREIGHT: Covered by Venue

The minimal freight for the entire exhibition is four items - this is where the support structures for the work (simple scaffolding pipe cut to size) would be supplied by the venue. The cost of transportation would be higher if the scaffold pipes were included. It is recommended to save on costs that scaffold pipe be sourced by the venue and all other hanging fittings will be supplied by Performance Space.

3 x 350cm x 40cm rolls approx 30 kilos each.
1 x box of hanging clamps for scaffold pipe.

ARTIST FEE: Covered by Venue

There is no "exhibition fee" for the project, but we do ask the venue to pay a flat fee to the artists of \$1000. The venue may also wish to arrange an artist talk and other public program events with the artists that we would be happy to facilitate. These additional requests of the artists would also need to be covered by the venue in terms of travel, accommodation and per diems.

CONTRACT

The terms of the contract would be set-out between the host/tour venue and Performance Space. Performance Space will assist venues with with some technical advice and with marketing and promotional material. As the commissioning organisation, Performance Space will supply the host venue with appropriate logos and acknowledgements to be included on all the venue's publicity material.

CONTACT

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