

TITLE OF WORK: Triple X Bitter

ARTIST: Eric Bridgeman

YEAR PRODUCED: 2008

SERIES: The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules

MEDIUM: HD video, 16:9, on DVD

DURATION: 12 minutes (on loop)

EDITIONS: 2/5 and 3/5

Triple X Bitter is one of seven performance-for-video works produced for Bridgeman's multi-dimensional project *The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules*, completed between 2008 and 2009. This performance-for-video work examines a hyper-real pub scenario involving key player Boi Boi the Labourer, a group of boisterous pub-goers, two black babes and an inflatable pool. With Bridgeman as Boi Boi the Labourer, the artist constructs and oversees the unfolding events, allowing the participants to explore their own perceptions, fears and understandings of rules of behavior that govern our experiences in Australian pub environments.

The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules is an interdisciplinary project that seeks to de-range race and gender stereotypes that underpin the foundations of national identity within contemporary Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Merging stereotypical symbols, designs and roles in a cross-cultural analysis of Bridgeman's own dual heritage from Australia and the Chimbu Province of Papua New Guinea, these works consider the contemporary status of race, gender, sexuality and cultural identity issues, as well as our positions within it. Using typical symbols from both nations, Bridgeman constructs environments and scenarios in which fictional characters interact and explore tasks and activities inspired by two separate ways of life. Performed in both public and private spaces, these carnivalesque acts are based on the paradoxical and improvised performances of its participants in environments that stimulate constructed rules of behavior, such as sporting arenas, pubs and work sites. With reference to ethnographic studies of tribal identities during periods of colonization, these photographic works document the characters explored throughout these performative discussions.



TRIPLE X BITTER EXHIBITION HISTORY

2010 Triple X Bitter

solo exhibition

The Cube, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra Australia
(April - May)

The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules

as part of 'Mind Games: photography, identity and play,'
The Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney Australia
(Jan 28th - Mar 6th)

2008 The New Fresh Cut 2008

Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD Australia
(October - November)

TITLE OF WORK: The Fight

ARTIST: Eric Bridgeman

YEAR PRODUCED: 2010

MEDIUM: HD video, 16:9, on DVD

DURATION: 8 minutes, 10 seconds (on loop)

EDITIONS: 1/5

In 2009, Bridgeman traveled through remote parts of the Chimbu Province, his mother country, in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. As he was born in Australia, he became increasingly conscious of his own “white” Australian presence. *The Fight* is based on ethnographic conventions, from National Geographic to Irving Penn, which once aided in the promotion and consumption of PNG as Australia’s next frontier.

Bridgeman filmed two groups of men from his own clan, the Yuri. Through acting out Western stereotypes of tribal war, *The Fight* parodies the history of representation and the subsequent impact on the national and cultural identity of PNG.

THE FIGHT EXHIBITION HISTORY

2010 Momentum / Sydney

Australia (May)

Last Words: Phase One

group Show

Gallery 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney Australia

(July 16 - August 28)

The Fight and New Photographs From Kokwara Trail

Queensland Centre for Photography Brisbane, QLD Australia

(May 9 - June 6)

ARTIST'S CV

Eric Bridgeman is a multi-disciplinary artist born in Papua New Guinea and currently based in Brisbane, Australia. Bridgeman commenced his Bachelor of Photography at the Queensland College of Art in 2005, majoring in Art Practice under the guidance of Ray Cook, Marian Drew and Jay Younger. He spent his final year in 2008 experimenting in Interdisciplinary Sculpture, which saw the beginnings of his works for *The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules* (2008/09). In 2008, the Institute of Modern Art (Brisbane) selected this work for inclusion in *The New Fresh Cut*, giving Bridgeman the exposure and support to further the two-year long project. From this breakthrough opportunity, Bridgeman's work attracted support and opportunities from organizations and institutions such as Next Wave Festival (Melbourne), Gallery 4A (Sydney), Australia Council for the Arts, Australian Centre for Photography (Sydney) and the University of Queensland Art Museum (Brisbane).

EDUCATION

2003 Clontarf Beach State High School

QLD Australia

2005-08 Bachelor of Photography

Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia,
Major: Photographic Art Practice

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2012 No Erections

DNA Creative, Chippendale, Sydney NSW Australia
(Dec)

No Direction

FF97 Gallery, Liverpool Independents Biennial, Liverpool, UK
(Sep)

Fair Game

Foto Freo - City of Fremantle Festival of Photography, Fremantle Arts Centre,
Fremantle, WA Australia (Mar - Apr)

I Want to Break Free

Penny Building, Lethbridge, Alberta Canada
(May-June)

2011 The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules

Gallerysmith, North Melbourne, VIC Australia
(Aug - Sep)

Yuri Yal Ton (Bad Man of the Yuri)

Dianne Tanzer Gallery + Projects, Melbourne VIC Australia
(Apr May)

2010 New Photographs From Kokwara Trail

Queensland Centre for Photography, Brisbane Australia
(May 8th - June 15th)

Big League Balls

Next Wave Festival 2010 at Blindside Gallery, Melbourne VIC Australia
(May 15th - May 31st)

New Photographs From Kokwara Trail

Gallery 4A, Sydney Australia
(Mar 25th - May 8th)

Triple X Bitter

The Cube, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra Australia
(Apr 11 - May 15)

2009 Gayer Than All The Rest

Next Wave Time Lapse, Federation Square, Melbourne VIC Australia
(July)

2007 Blue Collar Picture

Queensland Centre for Photography, Brisbane QLD Australia
(Nov - Dec)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2012 Taboo

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Australia
(Dec - Feb 2013)

The Other A.P.T

Online Exhibition
(Nov - Feb 2013)

SEXES

Performance Space and Carriage Works, Sydney NSW Australia
(Oct - Nov)

Melbourne Art Fair

Gallerysmith, Royal Exhibition Hall
Melbourne Australia (1-5 Aug)

2011 UQ National Artist' Self-Portrait Prize

University of Queensland Art Museum, St. Lucia QLD Australia
(Sep 2011- Feb 2012)

Primavera

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW Australia
(Sep - Dec)

Momentum/Berlin: Works from the Momentum collection

Kunstquartier Bethanien, Kreuzberg, Berlin Germany
(Jan - Mar)

2010 Redlands Regional Art Gallery

Mosman, NSW Australia (November 18 - 29)
at Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne Australia (August - November)

Basil Sellers Art Prize,

The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne VIC Australia
(Aug - Nov)

Momentum/Sydney

231 Wilson St, Eveleigh, Sydney NSW Australia
(12 - 15 May)

The State We're In: Contemporary Queensland Photography

University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane QLD Australia
(Jan 29th - April 11th)

The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules

as part of 'Mind Games: photography, identity and play'
at Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney Australia
(Jan 28th - Mar 6th)



2009 Royal Brisbane Hospital Platform

curated by Museum of Brisbane and Brisbane City Council,
Public Art Initiative of Art + Place, funded through Arts Queensland
(July - Dec)

Next Wave Time Lapse - Gayer Than All The Rest

Federation Square, Melbourne VIC Australia
(July)

Pacific Storms

Waterfront Place, Brisbane QLD Australia
(Dec)

Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery

Bundaberg QLD Australia
(June - July)

23 Degrees

curated by The Wandering Room, Wollongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD
Australia (April - May)

2008 The New Fresh Cut 2008

Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD Australia
(Oct - Nov)

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2010 Redlands Westpac Art Prize

Basil Sellers Ian Potter Art Prize

2009 Australian Council for the Arts,

Emerging Artist New Work Grant