

FDV RESIDENCY presenta  
**Nervous Tension**  
curated by Anabelle Lacroix

17th June 2014 h 7 pm  
works by Kieran Boland and Brie  
Trenerry, Megan Cope, Janet Lau-  
rence, Dani Marti, Diego Ramirez,  
Inez de Vega and Bar Yerushalmi



In the context of FDV Residency, Careof DOCVA presents Nervous Tensions, screening curated by Anabelle Lacroix in residency during June 2014.

Nervous Tension explores the notion of *surviance*, a state of being between surviving and resistance. This video screening addresses surviance as a global concept and examines the responses by Australian-based video artists - artists as witnesses and artworks as testimonies.

Originally coined by French Canadians to describe the loss of their language, a frequently used term in Quebec before the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, surviance relates to cultural dispossession. The concept was popularised by well-known historian Gerald Vizenor to describe the condition of the indigenous peoples of the Americas as a sense of presence over absence and nihility; an active state of being through resistance as opposed to disappearance.

*Nervous Tensions* aims at opening ideas of surviance as a lens to the wider contemporary context of cultural production and existence. This can be seen in the video works through different states or positions of resistance, whether physical, metaphysical, personal, environmental, or to the artistic medium itself. Furthermore, concepts or truth and permanence underline this project by considering Jacques Derrida's take on surviance as tied to a witness, someone who lives beyond an event. Here artworks are taken as testimonies, or perhaps as evidence. The works of Megan Cope and Inez de Vega particularly highlight this idea, and are also layered with personal histories.

*Surviance* as a contemporary notion evolves as a state of becoming and of potentiality. The remaining works in this screening are speechless, never silent, but wordless. In their distinct approaches the works of Dani Marti, Janet Laurence, Bar Yerushalmi, Diego Ramirez, Kieran Boland

and Brie Trenerry, demonstrate to state of contemplation, of reflection and of poesies.

#### LIST OF WORKS

Kieran Boland and Brie Trenerry, *Greenmount*, 4'52'', 2012  
Megan Cope, *Blacktism*, 8'4'', 2014  
Janet Laurence, *Dingo* (from *Fugitive* series), 4'7'', 2013  
Dani Marti, *Golden Years*, 8'31'', 2014  
Diego Ramirez, *Radish*, 4'19'', 2013  
Inez de Vega, *Dying Not to Be*, 8'21'', 2013  
Bar Yerushalmi, *Prélude pour un paysage*, 8'48'', 2013

The project is part of a wider focus on independent Australian art scene that Careof deeps during 2014 through exhibitions, lectures, and video screenings, inviting some of the independents Melbourne spaces to spend a residency period at FDV Residency.

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Anabelle Lacroix lives and works in Melbourne. Her research addresses media arts and the dynamics of representation within the exhibition space. Originally from France, has worked with arts organisations internationally, on exhibitions, screenings, residency programs and is currently the Program Manager at Liquid Architecture, a sound art organisation in Melbourne. As an independent curator Anabelle has recently presented exhibitions at Arc One Gallery (2014), Stockroom (2013) and Kings ARI (2013) and will open *Faux Novel* in September 2014 at RMIT Project Space, a project that addresses fictional strategies in art and curating practices. Anabelle graduated from the International Program in Curating Art at Stockholm University, undertook Masters by research in Art History at University College London. She writes regularly about contemporary art for exhibition catalogues and journals. [[www.anabelle-lacroix.com](http://www.anabelle-lacroix.com)]

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Careof DOCVA

Fabbrica del Vapore, via Procaccini 4, 20154 Milano

+39 02 3315800 [careof@careof.org](mailto:careof@careof.org)

[www.careof.org](http://www.careof.org) [www.docva.org](http://www.docva.org) [www.fdvresidencyprogram.org](http://www.fdvresidencyprogram.org)

Kieran Boland and Brie Trenerry are practicing video artists, also operating as collaborators

The work of Kieran Boland (Australia, 1969) works between video and drawing practice, he has exhibited extensively in Australia and undertaken several residencies overseas. Brie Trenerry primarily works with digital media and installation to create immersive environments that reflect her preoccupation with cinematic tropes. Trenerry has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne and has recently exhibited video works in curated exhibitions in Australia and internationally. Trenerry was a founding member of Kings ARI. Brie Trenerry is represented by Mars Gallery, and is a doctoral researcher at RMIT University, Melbourne.

Megan Cope (Australia, 1982) has a broad practice investigating issues relating to identity, environment and mapping practices, her work has been presented in Australia and abroad at PARAsite Gallery in Hong Kong, and City Gallery, Wellington in New Zealand, and was exhibited in 'Lie of the Land: New Australian Landscapes' at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. Cope was recently commissioned a major site-specific work for the Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane. She is a Quandamooka woman from Minjerriba (North Stradbroke Island) in South East Queensland, and a member of the Brisbane collective proppaNOW. Megan Cope is represented by Fehily Contemporary, Melbourne.

The work of Janet Laurence (Australia, 1947) addresses relationships to the natural world through both site specific and gallery works. Her work has been included in several major surveys and been curated into large-scale exhibitions both in Australia and internationally. These include exhibitions at Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney (2012), the 17th Sydney Biennale, Sydney (2010), Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2010), Adelaide Biennale, Adelaide (2008), and Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Japan (2003). Janet Laurence is represented by ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne.

Dani Marti (Spain, 1963) works across video, installation and public art. Marti's unorthodox woven and filmic works speak to notions of portraiture and sexuality in Modernism,

Minimalism and geometric abstraction. Since 1998, Marti has held over 33 solo exhibitions; Recent group exhibitions include the Adelaide Biennial (2014), and exhibitions at CCA Glasgow; Stills, Edinburgh (2013); Videonale-14, Kunstmuseum Bonn (2013); Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2011); Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia (2010) and Cinema X: I like to Watch, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto (2010). Dani Marti is represented by ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne.

The work of Diego Ramirez (Mexico, 1989) is driven by an interest in identity and the body. Most recently he completed a Summer Studio residency at Blindside ARI (Aus) and screened his work at Melbourne Now's Rooftop Transmissions (Aus), and Stuttgarter Filmwinter (De). In 2013 his work was exhibited in a solo show at Seventh Gallery (Aus) and featured at the Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize (Aus), The Substation Art Prize (Aus), WRO 15th Media Art Biennale (Poland), Channels Video Art Festival (Aus) and Currents Santa Fe International New Media Festival (New Mx, USA). Diego Ramirez lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.

Inez de Vega's practice spans from video and performance and often investigates the relationship between the two. In 2013, Inez undertook a two-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, awarded by the Art Gallery of NSW, where she created 'Dying Not to Be', a theatrical monologue on the complexities of committing suicide. Its visual references derive from classical paintings, the representations of anxious and dislocated women in cinema, and the photographs of Cindy Sherman in Untitled Film Stills (1977-1980). Inez de Vega has exhibited extensively in Australia and internationally in China, Chicago and Berlin.

Bar Yérushalmi (Israel, 1989) is a video artist and curator. Bar Yérushalmi presented solo exhibitions at La Chapelle des Petites Augustine, Paris (2010), at The Thelma-Yellin gallery in Tel-Aviv (2006) and graduated in 2013 from a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris. Bar Yérushalmi lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.

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