



# STUART RINGHOLT: KRAFT

## EXHIBITION DATES

14 February – 17 April 2014

## EXHIBITION OPENING

Saturday 15 February 2014 3.00 – 5.00pm

## CURATORS

Charlotte Day and Robert Leonard

“Much of what Ringholt does might seem childish or foolish, and irrelevant to contemporary art, but his apparent naiveté in fact forces a re-evaluation of what we consider appropriate. He opens a vertiginous void between exhibitionism and modesty that forces us to become aware of our place at the intersection of isolation and social interaction – and to reconsider our sense of self in the world.”

– Carolyn Christov Bakargiev, Artistic Director, *Documenta 13*

## FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT

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This exhibition is a joint project by  
Monash University Museum of Art,  
Melbourne; Institute of Modern Art,  
Brisbane; and City Gallery  
Wellington Te Whare Toi.

With support from Catalyst:  
Katherine Hannay Visual Arts  
Commission

**IMA**  
Institute of  
Modern Art

**City  
Gallery  
Wellington**  
Te Whare Toi

Stuart Ringholt is one of Australia's most fearless contemporary artists. His practice has involved leading audiences on naturist gallery tours, anger workshops, and participatory performance works that place the artist in embarrassing situations. He also makes video, absurdist sculpture, painted mirrors and collage. In 2006 he published the autobiographical book *Hashish psychosis: what it's like to be mentally ill and recover*.

The museum-wide exhibition at MUMA will present two ambitious new commissions shown in context with a selected survey of recent video, drawing, collage and sculptural works. Ringholt's practice addresses personal themes such as our fear of embarrassment and the pressure to conform to social norms, with the role of art cast as a potentially cathartic and re-energising force.

Generously supported by the Catalyst: Katherine Hannay Visual Arts Commission, Ringholt's new work – a monumentally scaled and temporally askew clock – will have a singular, powerful presence in the museum, provoking a disorientating and uncanny sense of time and an associated reconsideration of how time may be measured and spent.

In this new world of altered time, MUMA premieres Ringholt's *Club Purple* – a nude daytime disco situated within the museum. Featuring mixed and solo dance days, 'ladies days', and an endless playlist to choose from, *Club Purple* will offer a unique experience for audiences who choose to participate. It will entail a dramatic reinvention of the museum as an embodied space.

"Stuart Ringholt's artworks are often funny and strange, sometimes confronting, always thought provoking, and readjust our perspective on art and life. This exhibition provides the opportunity to place a number of pieces of the Stuart Ringholt puzzle together for the very first time."

– Charlotte Day, Director, MUMA

The exhibition will be accompanied by a substantial monograph featuring interviews and essays on the artist with contributions by Carolyn Christov Bakargiev, Artistic Director, *Documenta 13* and Amelia Barikin author of *Making Worlds: Art and Science Fiction* (Surplus, Melbourne, 2013) amongst others.

The exhibition will travel to City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi, New Zealand and the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane in 2014.

A grant from the Katherine Hannay Estate enabled the creation of Catalyst: Katherine Hannay Visual Arts Commission. The Commission is a unique charitable grant that supports Australian visual artists to work in partnership with a cultural not for profit organisation to realise a major new work at a pivotal moment in their career. Katherine Hannay's legacy is contributing to fostering the careers of artists seeking freedom to create influential and personal work without restraint. The Commission recognises, and supports, the key role of cultural not for profit organisations in promoting artists and exhibiting their work.



**Stuart Ringholt** was born in Perth in 1971 and currently lives and works in Melbourne. Selected individual exhibitions include *New Works*, Milani Gallery Brisbane, 2012; *Starring William Shatner As Curator*, Society, Sydney, 2012 and TCB, Melbourne, 2011; *Vitrines*, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney, 2010; *Video Works*, Club Laundromat, New York, USA, 2008; *Low Sculpture*, Anna Schwartz Gallery Melbourne 2007; *Backfence Jokes*, Display, Prague, Czech Republic, 2005; and *Crimes of the Apple Worms*, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, 2004.

Ringholt's work has been included in major international exhibitions including *Documenta(13)* in Kassel, Germany, 2012, and the 2011 Singapore Biennale, as well as the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art's *Pop-Up Program*, as part of the *54th Venice Biennale*, 2011, and the *Biennale of Sydney*, 2008. Other recent group exhibitions include *The Last Laugh*, apexart, New York, USA, 2013; *Cut with the Kitchen Knife* touring regional Victoria, 2012-13; *Behaving Bodies: Australian and New Zealand Video Art*, University of the Philippines Film Centre, 2012; *Local Positioning Systems*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2012; *Social Networking*, QAG/GOMA, Brisbane, 2012; *Artist Novels*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium, 2012; *Power to the People Contemporary Conceptualism and the Object in Art*, ACCA, Melbourne, 2011; *Before and After Science: Adelaide Biennale of Australian Art*, Art Gallery of South Australia, 2010; *Still Vast Reserves*, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy, 2009; *Too Much of Me: 7 Paths through the Absurd (with Detour)\**, Monash University Museum of Art, 2009; *Lost and Found: An Archaeology of the Present: TarraWarra Biennial*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Victoria, 2008.

His work has been featured in journals including *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *The Monthly*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, and *The New York Times*. For a full CV and extended bibliography see: <http://www.milanigallery.com.au/artist/stuart-ringholt>