



## *Hypnopopia*

Curated by Jon Cattapan

Celeste Chandler  
Chantal Faust  
David McDowell  
Cyrus Wai-kuen Tang

### **OPENING**

Saturday 6th February, 4pm – 6pm

### **EXHIBITION DATES**

4 February – 6 March, 2010

Sutton Gallery is pleased to announce *Hypnopopia*, a group exhibition curated by Jon Cattapan. Referring in its title to the cognitive state that occurs between dreaming and waking, the show features new work by Chantal Faust, Celeste Chandler, Cyrus Tang and David McDowell.

Charting the liminal terrain that slips between conscious and unconscious experience, each of the works in this exhibition offers a fresh examination of the phenomenology of perception. In Cyrus Tang's new video work, *Body Ruin*, a clay model of the artist's own body slowly erodes and dissolves as it is immersed in water. By transforming water into a 'property of time', the artist draws an analogy with the way in which an imagined or remembered image is also gradually altered and effaced by a process of steady decay.

Similarly, in David McDowell's screen-printed works, there is an investigation of the way in which we make sense of what we see. Images sourced from photographs taken by the artist are combined to form ghostly, ambiguous compositions. The potential symbolic meaning of motifs such as the skull acts as a counterpoint to the perceptual slipperiness of these works, inviting the viewer to grapple with their tantalising and allusive content.

Choosing to depict her hands as they perform the pumping action required for the life-saving act of resuscitation, Celeste Chandler's works play upon the similarities between this compulsive, repetitive movement, and the process of painting. Here, the action of painting is itself used as a vehicle to examine the artist's desire to 'transform paint into flesh and, in doing so, to speak about more intangible perceptions.' (Chandler, 2009) In this instance, the imagined flex and resistance of the human body beneath the artist's palm, is compared with the tactile caress or frantic action of a paintbrush against a canvas.

An examination of the relationship between touch and vision is equally apparent in Chantal Faust's photographic works. Continuing her use of a flatbed scanner as an image-making machine, Faust looks into the 'unfixed psychological states of mutable identities and dissolvable egos.' (Faust, 2010) Found images from 1980s fashion magazines have been torn, so as to allow various body and object parts to appear through newly formed apertures. Registering in the scanner's shallow field of haptic vision, these juxtapositions create an uncanny sense of depth, while allowing the images to touch upon 'the oscillating realms of conscious and unconscious states, perception and hallucination.' (Faust, 2010)

*Genevieve Osborn, 2010.*

## Artists' Biographies:

Since completing her Bachelor of Fine Art at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2004, Cyrus Tang has held numerous solo exhibitions and participated in a number of group exhibitions, including *Intrude: Art and Life 366*, Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China, 2008; *New Work-Material Process Practice*, The Banff Centre, Canada, 2008; and *The Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship*, VCA Gallery, Melbourne, 2007. In 2009, Tang completed her Master of Fine Art (Research) at Monash University. Her work is held in a number of private collections.

Over the past decade, David McDowell has held a number of solo exhibitions and video screenings both in Australia and abroad, including *telepathies*, Field36 Gallery, RMIT University, 2008; and *the passenger*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra, 2004. His video work has been shown internationally, most recently at the *5<sup>th</sup> International Berlin Directors Lounge*, Contemporary Media and Film Festival, 2009. Group exhibitions include *The Lake*, ACP, Sydney, 2009; *Australian Gothic*, PICA, Perth, 2008; and *Festivus 04*, Sherman Galleries, Sydney, 2004.

Celeste Chandler is currently completing her PhD at the Victorian College of the Arts. She has exhibited extensively since completing her Bachelor in Fine Art (Honours) in 2000 at the Tasmanian School of Art. Group exhibitions include *Thesis*, Sydney College of the Arts, 2009; and *The Art of the Nude*, Albury Art Gallery, NSW. Chandler's work is held in a number of public and private collections, including the Redcliffe City Gallery and the Maroondah Art Gallery.

Chantal Faust completed her PhD at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2008, having graduated with a Master of Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2003 and a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) in 2001. Faust has also exhibited widely, group exhibitions include *Scanned and Drawn*, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, 2009; *Perfect for every occasion: photography today*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Bulleen, 2007; and *Endgame. Late-capitalist Realism, Office of Utopic Procedures*, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, 2006. Faust's work is held in numerous public and private collections including Artbank, Deutsche Bank, KPMG Melbourne, Monash Gallery of Art, and the Victorian College of the Arts.