

Elizabeth Presa

Bio

Elizabeth Presa's research focuses on the poetics of the text. She is a sculptor and installation artist who has exhibited in Australia, Asia and the United States. In 2002 she was artist-in-residence at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore, and the recipient of the Power Institute Scholarship for a six-month residency at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. In 2004 Éditions Galilée, Paris, presented an exhibition of her work made in response to *Chaque Fois Unique* (The Work of Mourning) by Jacques Derrida, which was later exhibited at the Musée de Livres D' Artistes Contemporains.

In 2005 she undertook research in Paris on Maurice Blanchot's evocation of *L'Inconnue de la Seine* which culminated in an installation *Moon Water*, MARS Gallery, Melbourne. The catalogue for this exhibition contains critical essays by Jean-Luc Nancy and Andrew Benjamin. Her research on the interconnections between Rodin, Rilke and Blanchot is published in *After Blanchot: Literature, Criticism and Philosophy* (University of Delaware, 2006).

In 2006 the French Government awarded her a three month residency to develop video installations based on works in the collection of the Louvre Museum. This residency was completed in February of this year. The first of these video's *The Smile of Madam Houdon* is a collaboration with Jan-Luc Nancy. The series will form an installation at the Hong Kong Museum in 2008. She has recently presented installation work on the philosophers Spinoza *Calculation of the Rainbow* and JJ Rousseau's *Confessions "Dear Jean-Jacques"*, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. This year she is working on projects prompted by Charles Darwin's *Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries visited during the voyage of the HSM "Beagle" round the world*.

Elizabeth Presa's work is featured in *Verwisch Die Spuren* (Diaphanes) by philosopher Alexander Garcia Duttmann.

Website: www.elizabethpresa.com

Artist Statement

This installation titled 'manners' is made of bundles of gauze and plaster moulds set with water I have bathed in, and washed dishes or clothes in. Like a series of diaries, the folded plaster documents the residues and textures of objects, experiences and places, through a process that is itself part of the 'manners' of using water in this time of drought.

Education

PhD. Centre for Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies, Monash University.
Research topic: *The Poetics of the Book in Sculpture: Jacobes, Blanchot and Derrida*.

M.A. Critical Theory, (supervisors Elizabeth Grosz and Kevin Hart) Monash University.
BA (Hons) University of Melbourne (Fine Arts).
Post-Graduate Dip. (Sculpture), Phillip Institute.
Diploma of Fine Art (Sculpture), Victorian College of the Arts.

Solo Exhibitions (since 2000)

2007

Art, MARS Gallery Melbourne

'Dear Jean-Jacques', Sculpture and video installation, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris

2006

'Calculation of the Rainbow', MARS Gallery Melbourne

'Skin and Peel' sculpture installation with Irene Barberis, St. Johns Lutheran Church, Southbank, Melbourne

2005

'Moon Water' MARS Gallery, Melbourne
L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival: 'Papier Machine', Spacement, Melbourne

2004

'Peel' Museum de Livre des Artists Contemporain, France
'Peel' Editions Galilee, Paris

2002

'Milk River', Meru Art Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
'A Small Penance', Performance Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

2001

'The Book of Refused Words', Conservatory, St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Melbourne

2000

'The Four Horizons of the Page', Linden Gallery, Melbourne

Group Exhibitions (since 2000)

2007

'This Crazy Love' Linden Gallery, Melbourne
Toorak Invitational Sculpture exhibition, Melbourne

2005

'Making Conditions of Love' MARS Gallery, Melbourne
Jochen Gertz Die Anthology der Kunst, Akademie der Kunste, Berlin & ZKM Karlsruhe

2004-05

'For Nothing', the Bank, Midland, Western Australia

2004

L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival: 'The Empress's New Clothes', Port Jackson Press Gallery, Melbourne

2003

'Makers Mark', Counihan Gallery Brunswick Town Hall, Melbourne

2002

'Milk River', Meru Art Gallery, Brooklyn New York
'Shirakawa-go Art Festival', Japan
Anthology of Art, Centre Pompidou, Paris (text and images of contributors publicly accessible, Feb 5 - April 22)
'Oblique Shadows', VCA Gallery, Melbourne
'Transit Narratives', Villa Letizia, Italy

2001

'Grounds for Sculpture 1', McClelland Art Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria
'This Ocean Floor: A sculpture survey', Goya Galleries, Melbourne
'On the Cross', Linden Gallery, Melbourne

2000

'Oblique Shadows', Sculpture Square, Singapore
'Exquisite Corpse', Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria

Collaborations

2006 - Cameraman for videos by Anastasia Klose 'Film for Nanna', 'Bonjour Paris'
2005 - 'Marie-Ange Elizabeth', video installation with text by Jean-Luc Nancy

2005 - 'In the Toilets with Ben and Mum', 'Separate Countries' video collaboration with Anastasia Klose
2005 - 'Watteau' video with editing by Andy Spark for video installation 'Papier Machine'
2004 - 'Translation' video installation with Utako Sinto, Kasimir Burgess, text by Alexander Garcia Duttmann
2003 - 'Abberant' video project with Christopher Koller
2002 - 'Ultra Sound' 12 minute film by Kasimir Burgess, narration Alexander Garcia Duttman, text Jacques Derrida

Commissions

1999 - Wyndham City Council, Entertainment and Sports Complex. 'Oasis' (bronze)
1996 - Bayside City Council, Napier Thomas Mantesso Allen Architects. 'Halfmoon Bay' (bronze)
1996 - Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Sculpture Foundation. 'Manendo Manet' (bronze)
1994 - Wesley College, Daryl Jackson, Architect. 'Almanac' (bronze)
1989 - Colac City Council, Sculpture Park. 'Isaac's View' (cement fondue)

Grants Awarded

2006-07 - French Government (AFAA) 3 month residency at the Cite International des Arts, to video sculpture at the Louvre, Paris
2003 - Ian Potter Foundation funding for East Timorese Women's Weaving Project, outcomes showcased in the International Perspectives on Peace Conference University of Melbourne. \$3,000
2002 - Power Institute, Sydney University Scholarship to Cite International des Arts, Paris (6 month residency July-December) \$7,500
2002 - Australia Council for the Arts International residency. \$7,500
2002 - January Artist in Residence, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Publications by Elizabeth Presa

2006 - Breath, Mosaic Journal, "After Derrida", October, Manitoba University, Canada
2006 - 'White Work' in Beyond Blanchot: Literature, Criticism, Philosophy', eds. Leslie Hill, Brian Nelson, Dimitris Vardoulakis, University of Delaware
2005 - 'He said.' edition on Jacques Derrida 'Access: Critical Perspectives on Communication, Cultural & Policy Studies' Ed. Elizabeth Grierson
2004 - 'Establishing a research culture in a college for the Arts' QUT Press
2003 - 'Diary: Elizabeth Presa' Parallax, Routledge, 2003, vol. 9, no. 3, pp.69-74

Collections

Fonds National d' Art Contemporain, France (Recommendation by Jean-Luc Nancy, through the curator Catherine David, in progress)
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
Museum de Livre des Artists Contemporain, France
Monash University, Melbourne
Bayside City Council, Melbourne
Colac City Council, Victoria
Landmark Corporate Centre, Frankston
McClelland Regional Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria
Myer Foundation, Melbourne
VCA, University of Melbourne
Wesley College, Melbourne
Wyndham City Council, Melbourne
Represented in private collections in Australia and overseas