

## MEDIA RELEASE

# CUT WITH THE KITCHEN KNIFE

### Artists go back to the cutting board

A group of artists will take the expression “cut and paste” back to its analogue roots in a new exhibition set to launch at **Central Goldfields Art Gallery** on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 2.00pm**

*Cut with the kitchen knife* explores nine contemporary artists’ forays into collage; artists who literally cut up their world and rearrange it as a way of reimagining, or shedding light on, the society we live in.

Curated by Emily Jones, *Cut with the kitchen knife* was developed by NETS Victoria and will tour to six galleries throughout Victoria. The exhibition is a contemporary take on a tradition that stretches back to the collages created by Cubists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Jones says the medium of collage came into its own with the Dadaists in the 1910s and ‘20s, who used it as a means of furthering a political message.

“Artists like Hannah Hoch pioneered the use of photomontage as a means of critiquing popular media culture,” she says. “Her works reconfigured the mediums of advertising and political propaganda as a way of commenting on the social upheaval of the era.”

The exhibition features works by eight Australian artists, including Stuart Ringholt and Nicholas Mangan, as well as US-based artist Simon Evans.

Jones says many of the artists in the exhibition have a tendency to glean items and save them for later use, from supermarket catalogues and girly magazines to Shakespeare and the bible.

“It’s the artist’s natural disposition to store objects until they become useful, be it metaphorically or literally,” she says. “Most of the artists who use collage are obsessive hoarders.”

Despite the political intent evident in collage, Jones says there is an inherent humour, and even a child-like whimsy, in the medium.

For example, Stuart Ringholt’s *Circles Passing* series – in which he replaces the head of one person with another, making it impossible to determine the context and origin of either image – command us to stop and ponder the bizarre qualities of everyday life.

“The medium can be quite satirical in nature, but it has an inherent ability to bring harmony to the juxtapositions,” says Jones. “Collage has ability to reflect and reconfigure contemporary life and that’s what makes it so potent.”

*Cut with the kitchen knife*, a **NETS Victoria touring exhibition**, features works by Christian Capurro, Simon Evans, Elizabeth Gower, Mandy Gunn, Deborah Kelly, Nicholas Mangan, Stuart Ringholt, Joan Ross and Heather Shimmen.

It launches on **20 July 2013** at **Central Goldfields Art Gallery**, and runs until **25 August 2013.5**

The tour is supported by Arts Victoria and the Gordon Darling Foundation.

For more information, visit [netsvictoria.org.au](http://netsvictoria.org.au)

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### MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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**IMAGE:** Stuart RINGHOLT, *Circles Passing* (page 43), 2007, collage on paper, 33 x 40 cm framed. Courtesy the artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane.



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