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Steph Kretowicz & Katie Lenanton

Steph Kretowicz and Katie Lenanton manage, write, edit and curate the **boom.** project.

Steph works as a freelance journalist, researcher and promoter across a variety of fields and industries. Katie works independently as an arts administrator and project coordinator, with a specific focus on harnessing the talents of emerging artists. Through a fictional short story format, Steph creates a personal narrative inspired and informed by each artist's work under the curatorial and editorial guidance of Katie.



Neil Aldum

Neil Aldum has a first-hand understanding of the impact of the resources boom. Having worked in the mining sector he has witnessed and been party to the almost propulsive decision-making processes that occur when handling boom time resources.

Working largely with raw industrial materials, Neil's sculptural work investigates notions of craftsmanship, utility and physical labour. Meanwhile, his professional experience with circle auditing –“an official examination or endless cycle of verifying financial accounts and records” –helped to clarify his approach to his sculptural contribution *crane rig/circle audit*. “I like this description of a process in relation to my work,” he said. ‘Perth feels like it’s stuck in a constant cycle, a type of cultural audit. There’s a need to constantly verify that we’re okay and we’re doing things appropriately, and many of the younger generations feel lost and left out of the decision making process.”

Neil is represented by Gallery East and has exhibited at the Melbourne Art Fair and in numerous group shows. His first solo show was Prospect in 2008.



Jamie Macchiusi & Gemma Weston

Gemma Weston & Jamie Macchiusi's video and installation demands a public space to exist in. Peripheral and found objects are cobbled together in a fort structure as a monument to DIY bricolage. The act of creating an independent fort habitat sees them step outside the immediate context of economic boom to examine a particular brand of pent-up boredom inherent to the suburbs.

Both Jamie and Gemma are Fine Arts graduates who have expanded their skill sets since university, where Gemma worked within printmaking and Jamie focused on sculpture and installation. They have had broad-ranging experiences in creative and curatorial roles and currently working on another shared project 'The End'.



Andrew Murray & Heather MacRae

Working within an industry that has been adversely impacted by the boom, Andrew Murray and Heather MacRae identify a dominant post-boom dialogue that speaks of a more "reflective time in architectural design." Their site-specific documentation responds to quick and crude constructions that result from per square metre dollar values rather than environmental and design concerns. They incorporated elements of these boomtown structures in a collaged CAD drawing before re-siting and documenting the work in the surrounding environment.

Heather and Andrew are recent Environmental Design graduates currently working on obtaining a Masters of Architecture. Heather has been awarded the first year studio design award in 2006 and has undergone an exchange at Pennsylvania State University in the USA before completing a summer design program in Chennai, India. Andrew blogs about WA architecture at www.perthsbest.wordpress.com and works on the Weather Ring design journal.



Gian Manik & Jacob Ogden Smith

Gian Manik and Jacob Ogden Smith's video work acts as an audio-visual assault, with each workable component "amplified to obvious levels". Crude cutout backgrounds are positioned behind edited footage to re-contextualise the work within familiar 'Australian' landscapes. Screeching sound, abrasive editing and extreme costuming are freely dispersed when dialogue is unable to illuminate the language of ideas inherent within the footage. The result is an edited patchwork of raw sound and two-take footage.

Having met at university, Gian Manik and Jacob Ogden Smith discovered that they had similar working mentalities, matched with a concern for exploring and activating handcrafted sculptural objects. Earlier this year they presented *HOW WORKS*, their first joint solo exhibition.



Jessie Mitchell

Jessie Mitchell's site-specific installation works to explore how objects and viewers adapt to and open up systems in flux. The action of placing an object back into the immediate landscape helps the artist to find ways of delineating temporary, fluctuating spaces. "Something could happen, or it couldn't," Jessie said. "It's an anomaly." The process becomes a way to question and examine what the artist has control of in living, working, temporary environments.

Jessie is a design graduate whose work examines themes of sculpture, drawing, gesture and fashion. Within her practice the artist is the creator, the object is the agent and the wearer/body is the protagonist. These elements exist in situations that address issues of power, control, representation and culture.