Rachael Haynes Affirmative Action

27th of July – 11th of August 2018

Rachael Haynes is a contemporary artist who lives and works in Brisbane, Australia. Her art practice engages with feminist ethics and activism by examining the social and personal constructs of language and gender.

This exhibition is part of the ongoing *Project for the Affirmation of the Voice*, and addresses the polyvocal nature of contemporary feminism. The works draw on revisionist strategies to address the broader aim of the project: how can creative practice offer a feminist site of reclamation for voices of difference and work against patriarchal violence, which manifests as silencing and exclusion?

Taking as a starting point the provocation that, 'small acts of resistance can create change', this body of work draws specifically on protest language from feminist social history archives. Engaging with archives is a continual process of re- reading and uncovering that which has been overlooked or repressed in the historical record. It is also a process to discover genealogies and forge connections between feminist legacies and contemporary practices.

Rachael Haynes completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Visual Arts (2009) with the support of an Australian Postgraduate Award for research at QUT, where she is now a Lecturer in Visual Arts. Haynes is also the Director of Boxcopy, an artist-run contemporary art space and was a founding member of the feminist art collective, LEVEL.

List of Works

Protest Scores (2018) ink and ink and graphite drawings.

A New Spirit in Painting 1981 – 2018 (2018) Belgium linen, quilter's cotton fabric, zips and dowel. Where do I even begin? (2018) Ink and pencil on water colour, metronome and shelf.

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