

Acknowledgements

Kate Just is represented by Nellie Castan Gallery



PROJECT SPACE/SPARE ROOM

BUILDING 94: 23-27 CARDIGAN STREET, CARLTON



Managed by the RMIT School of Art

CURATOR/COORDINATOR Stephen Gallagher

ADMINISTRATOR/WEB DESIGN Andrew Tetzlaff **GRAPHIC DESIGN** Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison

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TELEPHONE +61 3 9925 4971 **GALLERY OPENING HOURS** Monday – Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm



Secret Files from the Working Men's College

[ANON]	DREW PETTIFER
RHETT D'COSTA	JON RIETHMULLER
RICHARD HARDING	JONAS ROPPONEN
KATE JUST	DAVID SEQUEIRA
SPIROS PANIGIRAKIS	GLENN WALLS
NIKOS PANTAZOPOULOS	

Curated by STEPHEN GALLAGHER

FRIDAY 5 TO THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2010

OPENING THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 5-7PM

FLOOR TALK THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 12-1PM

What hides behind those doors and dark spaces of the Working Men's College?

RMIT University, from its inception, has been synonymous with fostering creativity in the arts.

The Working Men's College (now RMIT University) opened its doors in 1887 and despite its name accepted both male and female students. It offered classes in the areas of business, technical skills and the arts, reflecting the philosophies of England's Working Men's College and Arts and Craft movement. The influence of the Arts and Crafts movement was further evidenced by the subjects offered at the Working Men's College - painting, drawing, photography and music. All of these courses encouraged and developed the skills of the maker.

Secret Files from the Working Men's explores these ideals though a queer eye. There is no direct reference to the Working Men's College history. Nor is there an obvious reference to gay art in the work. It is the exploration of the existing RMIT University community - non sectarian, non political, and free from persecution and sexual discrimination. Behind the RMIT University doors is a creative environment for both male and female, queer or heterosexual.

Secret Files from the Working Men's is in celebration of the Midsumma Festival, an exhibition that showcases a selection RMIT School of Art's queer alumni working within the mediums of printmaking, painting, photography

and jewellery. It presents the nuance of gay lifestyle, primarily focusing on the individual and how their 'queer-ism' manifests in their artistic practice. I am privileged to present, in association with the Midsumma Festival, such a strong body of crafted art works by such confident artists.

Secret Files from the Working Men's College exposes some of the files of this historic institution. In 1887 you couldn't be openly gay. This exhibition and Midsumma are testament to the social and political change that has happened since. We are happy to brings together some of RMIT's gayest artists and release these hidden files to the public.

Stephen Gallagher, Curator

Richard Harding
Homo, 2010
Acrylic mirror, acrylic paint, and glitter on rubber
200 x 335 x 0.5 cm

