

I'm travellin' light'  
... 'No, no, you don't travel light'.  
(Tindersticks self-titled album 95)

Hany Armanious  
Thomas Bernstein  
Natalie Davey  
Domenico DeClario  
Deej Faby  
Nicola Loder  
Rob McHaffie  
Sanné Mestrom  
Tracy Nakayama  
Jonathan Nichols  
Deborah Ostrow  
Tere Recarens  
Peter Robertson  
Gareth Sansom  
David M Thomas  
Jeremy Yoder

curated by Deborah Ostrow

Spacement  
opening 6pm Thursday 4 Dec  
1-17 December 2005

I'm familiar with few of the fifty or so artworks in this exhibition. Artist/curator Deborah Ostrow has asked me to write something here because I've known her and her practice for more than a decade, since we were both 'emerging', and because at different times there has been a sort of 'intensity' in our friendship. The participants in the exhibition have this in common: their link to Ostrow and, along with that, an intensity of feeling (on Ostrow's part at least) that occurred once upon a time or more than once.

Deborah Ostrow has asked me to mention something about each artist's work 'because artists always want that', but as I said, I haven't seen most of the artists' work. I can see though that Ostrow's motivation for putting the show together fits with the way her own practice has developed over the last ten years, especially her exhibitions of the 1990s. For Ostrow, making art has always been about activating identities and ideas about interrelationships between people. The aesthetics of her art and her domestic environment are unusually inseparable; her aura and her analyst, her attitudes to love and war, all have been reconstructed indirectly or metaphorically in her work. Ostrow displaces these personal 'treasures' and substitutes the sensations and feelings she associates with others—including other things—around her, those that have affected her deeply.

With 'I'm travellin' light' ... 'No, no, you don't travel light', Deborah Ostrow constructs a personalised historical account of art through the last decade and a half. Quite simply, she has brought together the artworks that she remembers most clearly over that time. She describes the various figurative and other works in the exhibition as being about 'self-portraiture, using yourself because there's no one else'. But she means this in a very particular way—she is co-opting the work of these artists

for her own self-examination; the exhibition becomes like a self-portrait. Ostrow gives us the beautiful ruse that is the curator. Nonetheless she remains the artist behind the mask of the curatorial role-play. We'll be better able to experience what this means for the art once the exhibition opens; I imagine it will affect what we see.

There are sixteen artists in 'I'm travellin' light' ... 'No, no, you don't travel light'. I've met about half, some fleetingly (Natalie Davey at a dinner in Fitzroy a decade or more ago, Domenico DeClario, David M Thomas), some I know a little better (Hany Armanious, Deej Faby, Nicola Loder), and one is my husband (Jonathan Nichols). How disconcerting it is to attempt to compartmentalise people into these groups, 'grading' the relationships, not for quality but for 'depth'. This question of what it means to even briefly 'know' a person, to allow yourself to be influenced by that experience, and to recall that experience differently over years, is central to Ostrow's interest in undertaking this project. Can we say that art is a reasonable form through which to do this? Because, like music, experience of art for artists and viewers can be associated with specific times, moods and events, holding distinctive feelings?

This exhibition is an ambitious undertaking. Works dated from 1976 to 2005 have been transported to Melbourne from seven different cities: Berlin, Brisbane, Düsseldorf, London, New York, Perth and Sydney. It's appropriate that the exhibition is being presented at Spacement, a basement gallery so low down in the ground it's without mobile phone coverage—artists are 'bottom feeders' I'm always being told.

- Bala Starr, 2005



1. Domenico DeClario
2. David M Thomas
3. Deborah Ostrow
4. Deej Faby
5. Gareth Sansom
6. Hany Armanious
7. Tracy Nakayama
8. Jeremy Yoder
9. Natalie Davey
10. Nicola Loder
11. Peter Robertson
12. Rob McHaffie
13. Sanné Mestrom
14. Tere Recarens
15. Thomas Bernstein
16. Jonathan Nichols

# 'I'm travellin' light'



# 'No, no, you don't travel light'

# 'No, no, you don't travel light' (Tindersticks self-titled album 95)

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| <p><b>List of works</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hany Armanious<br/><i>Entry of Mr Karma as Shiva with four manifestations (all photographers are curts)</i> 1992<br/>found objects, dimensions variable<br/>Courtesy the artist, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, and Michael Lett Gallery, Auckland</li> <li>2. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Couple sniffing exhaust emissions</i> 1993<br/>ink on paper, 21 x 29.7 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>3. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Black and white people</i> 1993<br/>ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>4. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Couples with luggage in the desert</i> 1993<br/>ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>5. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Bulky luggage</i> 1993<br/>ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>6. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Couples hanging on a mountain top</i> 1993<br/>ink on paper, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>7. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Men hanging on ship</i> 1991<br/>lithograph, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Default gender</i> 1991<br/>lithograph, 24 x 33 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>9. Thomas Bernstein<br/><i>Men and women with mobile phones in a cave</i> 1991<br/>ink on paper, 2 parts, each 50 cm diam.<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>10. Natalie Davey<br/><i>In the pub</i> from the 'Bad photography' series 1995<br/>watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>11. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Amber BYO' from the 'Bad photography' series</i> 1998<br/>watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>12. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Man in Munich' from the 'Bad photography' series</i> 1998<br/>watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>13. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Car park' from the 'Bad photography' series</i> 1996<br/>watercolour on paper, 14.5 x 10 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>14. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Public art' from the 'Park' series</i> 1995<br/>oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Building, Germany' from the 'Park' series</i> 1990<br/>oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>16. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Paddock' from the 'Park' series</i> 1991<br/>ink on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>17. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Sightseeing' from the 'Park' series</i> 1991<br/>oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>18. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Talisman' from the 'Park' series</i> 1996<br/>oil on canvas, 25 x 20 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>19. Natalie Davey<br/><i>'Industriegebiet' from the 'Park' series</i> 1991<br/>oil on canvas, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>20. Domenico DeClario<br/><i>Project (Te Awatea) New Zealand: 7 installations/performances at the Govett-Brewster Gallery and various sites around New Plymouth, New Zealand, using found materials, September-December 1998 2005</i><br/>type C photographs, 7 parts, each 10 x 15 cm, edition of 6<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>21. Domenico DeClario<br/><i>Quiet in the land: 28 monochrome paintings/28 performances at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, Maine, United States, 2-30 June 1996 2005</i><br/>type C photograph, 59.4 x 42 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Deej Faby<br/><i>catch/snatch</i> 1999<br/>videotape transferred to DVD, colour, sound<br/>9 minutes<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>23. Nicola Loder<br/><i>Tourist: I am not a black man, Melbourne circa 2005 2005</i><br/>lambda digital prints, acrylic, 4 parts, each: 40.2 x 63.5 x 0.8 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Crossley &amp; Scott, Melbourne</li> <li>24. Rob McHaffie<br/><i>a parallel world ain't so bad</i> 2005<br/>oil on canvas, 36 x 30 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney</li> <li>25. Rob McHaffie<br/><i>friends of the artist</i> 2005<br/>mixed media and found objects<br/>dimensions variable<br/>Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney</li> <li>26. Sanné Mestrom<br/><i>1984 (Hindi) 2005</i><br/>gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>27. Sanné Mestrom<br/><i>1984 (German) 2005</i><br/>gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>28. Sanné Mestrom<br/><i>1984 (Hindi) 2005</i><br/>gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Sanné Mestrom<br/><i>Building (English) 2005</i><br/>gouache on paper, 75 x 50 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>30. Tracy Nakayama<br/><i>Middle ages</i> 2005<br/>sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder &amp; Sportsman Gallery, Chicago</li> <li>31. Tracy Nakayama<br/><i>Pink comforter</i> 2005<br/>sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder &amp; Sportsman Gallery, Chicago</li> <li>32. Tracy Nakayama<br/><i>Sweet honey child</i> 2005<br/>sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder &amp; Sportsman Gallery, Chicago</li> <li>33. Tracy Nakayama<br/><i>Apple</i> 2005<br/>sepia on paper, 24 x 17.5 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Bodybuilder &amp; Sportsman Gallery, Chicago</li> <li>34. Jonathan Nichols<br/><i>things in you (watch your business) no. 1</i> 1995<br/>type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, edition of 5<br/>Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne</li> <li>35. Jonathan Nichols<br/><i>things in you (watch your business) no. 2</i> 1995<br/>type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, edition of 5<br/>Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36. Jonathan Nichols<br/><i>'things in you (watch your business) no. 3</i> 1995<br/>type C photograph, 110 x 75 cm, edition of 5<br/>Courtesy the artist and Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne</li> <li>37. Jonathan Nichols<br/><i>kissing</i> 1998<br/>oil on linen, 41 x 51 cm<br/>Private collection, Brisbane</li> <li>38. Deborah Ostrow<br/><i>After Araki's 'Tokyo lucky hole' and 'Dramatic shooting and fake reportage' 2005</i>, printed matter, synthetic polymer paint-glué, jewellery, pins, glass, modelling clay, 3 parts, dimensions variable<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>39. Deborah Ostrow<br/><i>Search and rescue mission (PS1 Clocktower Gallery) 1999</i><br/>videotape transferred to DVD, colour, sound, 3 minutes<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>40. Tere Recarens<br/><i>Miss-work</i> 2005<br/>type C photograph, 165 x 200 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and Galeria Toni Tapies, Barcelona</li> <li>41. Tere Recarens<br/><i>Tere Watere</i> 1999<br/>videotape transferred to DVD, colour, sound, 14:22 minutes<br/>Courtesy the artist and Galeria Toni Tapies, Barcelona</li> <li>42. Peter Robertson<br/><i>'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994</i><br/>lambda print, 43 x 31 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43. Peter Robertson<br/><i>'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994</i><br/>lambda print, 43 x 31 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>44. Peter Robertson<br/><i>'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994</i><br/>lambda print, 43 x 31 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>45. Peter Robertson<br/><i>'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994</i><br/>lambda print, 51 x 61 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>46. Peter Robertson<br/><i>'Untitled' from 'Beyond Xanadu' 1994</i><br/>lambda print, 61 x 51 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>47. Gareth Sansom<br/><i>Self-portrait with camera</i> 2005<br/>type C photograph, 91.4 x 121.9 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and John Buckley Fine Art, Melbourne</li> <li>48. Gareth Sansom<br/><i>Siccolam</i> 1976<br/>mixed media and collage on cardboard, 53 x 104 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist and John Buckley Fine Art, Melbourne</li> <li>49. David M Thomas<br/><i>Everyday I am a day older (Dave)</i> 1993/4-2005<br/>digital print, 120 x 80 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>50. David M Thomas<br/><i>Everyday I am a day older (Muppets' Christmas)</i> 1993/4-2005<br/>digital print, 120 x 80 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51. Jeremy Yoder<br/><i>collage on paper, 22 x 30.5 cm</i><br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>52. Jeremy Yoder<br/><i>The central realm of the densely packed</i> 2004<br/>collage on paper, 27.5 x 21 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>53. Jeremy Yoder<br/><i>The spilt milk ceremony</i> 2003<br/>collage on paper, 15.5 x 27 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> <li>54. Jeremy Yoder<br/><i>Riding on the horse of breath</i> 2004<br/>collage on paper, 48 x 38 cm<br/>Courtesy the artist</li> </ol> |
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