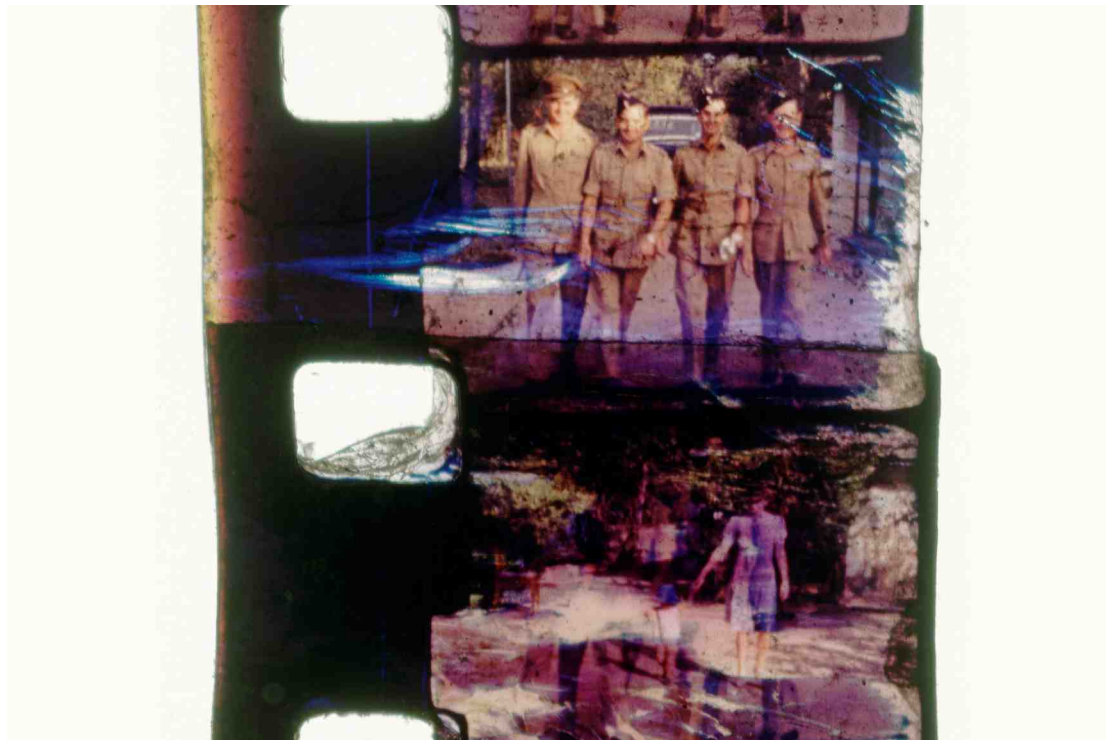


6734 feet: 59 frames, 2009

Jonathan McManus



We saw Jonathan McManus' *6734 feet: 59 frames, 2009* in the 2009 Graduating Exhibition in the ANU School of Art's Photospace. As he had intended, the rediscovered images and use of a slide projector brought a real sense of time past to the work, beautifully evoking aspects of life in the 1950s.

Jonathan accepted our invitation to show *6734 feet: 59 frames, 2009* in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY Multimedia Room and we were delighted to be able to show it to coincide with this year's *Hang it yourself 2010*.

Jonathan's Artist Statement explains the rationale for and meticulous approach he has taken to create this work. He says he '... was enthralled by this notion of works of art, developing and evolving in desk drawers and garages, just waiting to be discovered'.

PhotoAccess is very pleased to share Jonathan McManus' *6734 feet: 59 frames, 2009* with a wider Canberra audience through this showing in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY.

David Chalker

See information about Jonathan McManus and his work at www.find-it.net

Supported by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments



Artist statement

As a photographer I seem to have become afraid of my camera, seeking refuge instead in the archives of others, rediscovering and re-imagining things hidden therein. *6734 feet: 59 frames* is my exploration of a collection of 8mm home movies, dating back to the 1950s. In this collection I became fascinated with the condition and physical characteristics of the film—the scratches, the cracks, the dust and decay, and the cuts and glues of the editing process—the 'glorious crud' as I once heard it described. The concept of these random and unintentional interventions creating 'art' intrigued me, and I began to see film as stage, a base on which physical intervention leaves its mark. I wanted to explore the possibilities of photography to represent something other than that which appears before the lens to embrace time and its ravages as a legitimate artistic tool. I was enthralled by this notion of works of art, developing and evolving in desk drawers and garages, just waiting to be discovered.

I explored the film on a hand editor, tortuously winding thousands of feet from reel to reel as I peered at the tiny screen in the dark. I found the damage forming additional compositional elements in the scene, creating an interplay with the other elements and characters that changed the reading of the frame, while still retaining something of the original narrative. But as well I found myself drawn to the careful edits of the filmmaker. These interruptions in the continuity of the film were vivid and surreal, straight lines of dadaesque connections across scene and time. While often the film would be cut along a frame border, and joined again almost seamlessly, there were those other times, the scars across the middle of a scene joining head with rump, torso with tree, ferris wheel with fairy floss. It was these juxtapositions that compelled me, and I became some kind of anti-editor, pulling out that which was not to be seen and asking people to look.

In transferring the images onto slides I am attempting to capture some of the magic of film projection—the beautiful warm light, the darkened room and the clatter of the projector. From an archive of film I am evoking history through the creation of objects which themselves have no history. They lack the feel or smell of old photographs, the animation of historical film, instead they are a specifically chosen and re-imagined moment, a deliberate slowing down and focusing on a fraction of a second from decades ago, frozen in a layer of emulsion, and then acted upon by the passing of time.

Jonathan McManus

Artist CV

Education

2009 Bachelor of Arts (Visual) Honours, Australian National University, Canberra ACT

Solo exhibitions

2006 junk mail?, Photospace Gallery, Canberra

Group exhibitions

- 2010 Partly Cloudy, SOFA Foyer Gallery, Canberra
- 2009 Lost Property Developers, Belconnen Bus Interchange, Canberra
- 2007 School of Art Drawing Prize, SOFA Foyer Gallery, Canberra
- Shifting Perspectives, Craft ACT Gallery, Canberra
- We Like Older Men, Quay Hole Gallery, Wanganui, New Zealand
- 2006 Fragile, a public art exhibition in the grounds of ANU, Canberra

Screenings

- 2010 PhotoAccess Exhibition Award, ANU Emerging Artist Support Scheme
- 2009 Beginning Middle End, SOFA Gallery, Canberra
- A Film by Fourteen People, National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra
- 2008 BEAM, projection on various public buildings as part of Domain
- 2006 CUT, Facultad de Bellas Artes Festival, Argentina
- CUT, National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra

Collections: National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra; KPMG Art Collection Australia

Publications: *Artsource*, Winter Issue, 2008