

HUW DAVIES GALLERY  
10-27 July 2014

## Megan Cope | **The Blaktism**

Megan Cope is a Quandamooka woman from North Stradbroke Island in South East Queensland. She is an artist, curator and a member of the Brisbane-based Aboriginal Art Collective proppaNOW. Megan's work has been presented in Australia and abroad, and in 2013 she was commissioned to create a major site-specific work for the *My Country, I still call Australia Home* exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane.

Megan recently exhibited *The Blaktism* at Screen Space Gallery in Melbourne as part of the *Next Wave Festival*, Metro Arts Gallery in Brisbane and Care of Gallery in Milan Italy. PhotoAccess is delighted to present *The Blaktism* in the Huw Davies Multimedia Gallery as part of NAIDOC Week 2014.

*"The Blaktism is a satirical new media work about the artist's recent experience obtaining her 'Certificate of Aboriginality' and the overwhelming sense of doubt experienced at the thought of being legitimately certified at 30 years of age. This eight-minute video presents a baptism-like sacred ceremony whereby a young Quandamooka woman receives the rite of authenticity validated by cultural authorities (everyday Australians) ever present in the Australian cultural landscape. The sacred ceremony itself results in a satirical cultural assimilation rave party whereby all Australians are liberated, celebrated equally and transgressively renewed through physical and gestural adjustments. The Blaktism seeks to challenge audience members with subterranean racism within popular culture. It shows the absurd nature of racial classification and disdain for cultural self-determination in 21st century Australia. This work translates issues of citizenship, power, prejudice and interrogates issues on cultural authority in 21st century Australian political and cultural landscape."* Megan Cope



*The Blaktism (video still)*



*The Blaktism* (video still)



*The Blaktism* (video still)

**List of works**

Megan Cope, *The Blaktism*, single channel high definition digital video, 2014, 8:04 minutes

**\$**  
POA