





**EDITORS**

Penelope Benton

**DESIGN**

Penelope Benton

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Kelly Doley  
Sian McIntyre  
Penelope Benton

**FRONT COVER IMAGE**

detail  
Rossana Martinez,  
'Capturing Minds',  
performance and installation  
at 80WSE Galleries,  
New York University, 2008.  
Image courtesy the artist.

**LOGO DESIGN**

Kiera Chevell

**PRINTING**

Arc Office @ COFA

**THANKS**

All the contributors,  
Marcel Cooper, Shelley  
Valentine, the Student Focus  
Group and Arc @ UNSW Ltd.



COFAtopia issue #5, 2010



**NEW programs at COFA**  
page 4-5



**Constructed Painting**  
page 6-7



**What's On**  
page 8-9

**Firstdraft re-opens!**  
page 10-11



**MOMENT: MINUS THEM & MEANING**  
page 12-13



**4x7**  
page 14



## EDITORIAL

We closed 2009 with several endings and farewells. People and places that inspired and supported me particularly throughout my many years at COFA; Nick Waterlow, the Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Bronwyn Bailey-Charteris, Tilda Sikes, Hayden Daley, and then there's the COFA Tukshop, and the Arc Office in D Block that was my second home for the last decade, joining B and C Blocks where I studied and created along with hundreds of others, now dark deserted rooms and hallways, sporting a few bits of abandoned paper and broken furniture as they sit patiently awaiting to be demolished in preparation for the much anticipated COFA redevelopment (soon we're told). It is with fond and warm memories that I, along with many, say thank you and goodbye to the thousands of stories shared, to be cherished always in our hearts.

Flinging open the doors to 2010 screaming happy new year and popping balloons, we roll up our sleeves and get ready to embrace change and cross-campus collaborations as the Paddington site heads towards major redevelopment. COFA intergrates into the Kenso campus with PG Research painting students in the Squarehouse, Art Theory and Art Education all over big school, two COFA students in the Blitz team - Arc's weekly student mag, a COFA student design on the front cover of UNSW's student diary, and a couple of COFA students join a huge

above:  
Francesca Mataraga  
fragments from 'Yellow'  
mixed media, 2009  
Installation at Factory 49, Sydney  
Photographer Pam Aitken  
image courtesy the artist

team of paid interns as Arc implements a new program to support student involvement and professional development for our members. Perhaps the most exciting thing about this new year is the super amazing \$69 bargain price tag on Arc membership... wow!!

In this issue of *COFAtopia - Construction*, our new Arc@COFA team member, Kelly Doley catches upcoming Kudos exhibitors to talk architecture and games, announces the opening of just renovated Firstdraft, Sydney's longest running ARI, and promotes our new gallery tours and discussion panel programs, starting week1. And Sian is back and entertaining us with love and pirates in the heartstopping drama series; 4x7.

The Arc Office and the Art Store have moved into little rooms off the Student Lounge on the top floor of E Block. We're still open Mon-Fri and all services will remain available and constant throughout the building project. Students at Kenso can access all our arts&design specific programs via Blockhouse Reception, the Student Development Office or via our website [cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au](http://cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au).

Penelope.



# NEW

## GET THE GOSS GALLERY TOUR

**Jump on board the Arc @ COFA Van this semester and get the lowdown in an action packed Get The Goss Gallery Tour!**

Tours will focus on the places that are the hardest to find like Artist Run Initiatives- as well as those big scary commercial galleries.

This is a great way to get to know the art scene and see places where you can exhibit too!

Tours will include meeting and talking to gallerists and artists to get hot tips and all the art goss know-how!

Tours run on Thursdays starting at 4 ending at 6 - just in time for an opening - so you can have a drink and a chat with other artists in your city!

**Touring to in 2010:**

- Firstdraft Gallery
- MOP Projects
- Peloton
- Locksmith
- Roslyn Oxley9
- BREENSpace
- Artspace
- Performance Space
- Chalkhorse
- Black and Blue
- Serial Space
- Object Gallery
- Gaffa
- Grant Pirrie
- ICAN
- Darren Knight
- Cosmic Battle for Your Heart

MEET IN THE LOADING DOCK  
THURSDAYS 4PM  
WEEK 1: 4 MARCH  
WEEK 7: 22 APRIL  
WEEK 12: 27 MAY

## THINKING MINDS PANELS

**Put on your thinking caps, get those notebooks out and sharpen those pencils!**

**Why?**

**Because this session THINKING MINDS will hold a series of panels and forums for your intellectual pleasure!**

**So come on up to the Arc Common Room, 1st Floor E Block, Tuesdays at 3pm and hear the best of the best tell you about what they do, how they do it, why they do it and how you can do it too!**

**WEEK 3: 16 MARCH**

**Feminism:  
what does it mean today?**

**WEEK 6: 13 APRIL**

**Sustainable living:  
how, what and why?**

**WEEK 12: 25 MAY**

**D.I.Y:  
How to start your own art space or A.R.I, festival or arts event**

# Constructed Painting

In “Constructed Painting” upcoming exhibition at Arc’s Kudos Gallery, Beata Geyer, Francesca Mataraga, Rossana Martinez, Margaret Roberts, attempt to ‘de-construct’ the language of painting and drawing to explore architectural and three-dimensional space through the use of line and colour. Kelly Doley catches up with PhD candidate Francesca Mataraga to find out more.

## What is the connection between the four artists in the exhibition ‘Constructed Painting’?

The aim of the curatorial project ‘Constructed Painting’ is to generate discussion around the practice of painting in the expanded field and to showcase work within this context. Although expanded painting or painting in the expanded field has existed as a concept throughout the twentieth century, it is only recently that it is being discussed in any detail. My PhD thesis at COFA examines this issue, as did the 2007 Artspace Symposium – ‘Expanded Painting: The Spatialisation of Painting and the Proper Name of Installation Art’.

## What is the relationship to architectural intervention in your painting/drawing practices?

Architectural intervention comes from the work engaging with the space – either by responding to it or utilizing it in a specific way. This could be a performance or gesture created or adapted for a particular site or a configuration of objects or elements uniquely arranged in a space. For instance Margaret Roberts doesn’t regard her work as ‘architectural intervention’ in

the sense that it aims to challenge architecture itself. Her work attempts to construct relationships of mutual recognition between the virtual space created or drawn on by artworks and the physical space within which it is situated. Beata Geyer makes installations that are neither painting nor sculpture and that are configured to suit a particular space using that space as the canvas or frame. She regards architecture as a fundamental aspect of her practice, particularly the integration of pictorial space into ‘real’ space. Rossana Martinez’s work generates meaning from the participation of a specific audience, in this case the visitors to Kudos Gallery. I create three dimensional paintings that use the existing gallery architecture as the canvas and prompt the visitor to re-consider painting as a three-dimensional practice.

## How do you plan to use the architectural space of Kudos Gallery?

The underpinning principle is to create work that considers the unique properties of a particular exhibition space and work with it. In this case, there is the utilization of the stage at Kudos, a gesture that emphasizes the history of the space as a hall, the utilization of the moveable walls as objects rather than hanging space and the emphasis of the floor. Martinez’s goal is to invite viewers to participate, think and make decisions and ultimately be part of the process. She originally presented ‘Capturing Minds’ at NYC and is excited to bring it to a new space, country and audience. What interests her about art is the dialogue between the artist and the viewer. Roberts, on the other hand wants to address the ‘false’ and moveable walls used in the gallery, highlighting their value as secondary in relation to the building and the art objects contained within. Her purpose is to reduce the invisibility of gallery architecture, without negating the

abstraction of the artwork and to see whether both can co-exist. My work focuses on the use of the stage and Geyer utilizes the floor.

## Traditionally paintings/drawings are hung flat on a wall. Why do the works in the show extend out of the wall and/or use readymade objects?

During the twentieth century painting as a practice has become diverse and far-reaching. The idea of a painting/drawing confined to a wall is outdated. These works are intended to show that contemporary practice is not confined to traditional approaches. Painting and drawing are intrinsically linked to explorations of space and spatial problems. By showing work that is primarily three-dimensional it reminds audiences that painting and drawing practices have long left the canvas and the page. The use of the readymade emphasizes an ongoing tradition in painting and drawing to engage with what already exists in the world.

Roberts describes her drawings as a literal line, used to mark an object that is also a wall. This line functions spatially by marking out a 3-dimensional object and representationally, as it requires viewers to visualize the divisions. Martinez uses simple, recognizable materials because she wants everyone (other artists, people without an art background, children, etc.) to understand and recognize the material and the work. Simplicity and dialogue are important elements present in her work and emphasize honesty in her everyday experiences. Geyer uses commercially available paint as the ready-made and the whole gallery (walls and floors) as her canvas – extending beyond historically assigned constraints; she describes painting as a model for theoretical discourse on art, philosophy and science. I am interested in abstracting the ready-made, re-assigning its



identity from a commercial object to an abstract object and creating spaces that function as three-dimensional paintings. Painting and drawing are for me a mode of thought, a way of interacting with the world.

## In light of the role of modern digital technologies, what do you think is the relevance of painting/drawing today? How does it have the capacity to be ‘re-invented’?

This emphasis on the avant-garde is a relic of modernist ideology. The concept of successive movements has been challenged since the 1960s and works that have come to be seen as seminal precursors to installation and other site-specific art practices, can now be situated within the expanded field of painting.

It seems counter-productive to divide art today into specific or confined discipline areas when so many artists use so many different methods of production. Painting,

drawing and digital technologies are all just ways of making art. Each one is a tool that is used according to its suitability for a particular project or idea. To most artists, modern digital technologies are just another way to create and explore. What this exhibition emphasizes is that painting and drawing as disciplines continue to evolve, challenging the idea that these practices are confined to a flat surface.

None of the artists in this exhibition see themselves as exclusively tied to one discipline or medium. Martinez, for instance focuses on what artists do and how they contribute to community. Roberts emphasizes that whilst modern digital technologies and drawing are not identical, the idea that they are radically different is (partly) capitalist propaganda designed to get people to buy the ‘new’. Geyer describes her work as neither painting nor sculpture, emphasizing instead that for her the artistic process is not about new inventions but rather about modes of construction and rearrangement. For me painting does not have to be

re-invented, it has simply evolved and expanded.

## How has your time at COFA influenced your painting practice?

COFA is a wonderfully creative environment and I have extended and developed my painting practice through research whilst at COFA – both as a current PhD candidate and previously during my MFA, also in the School of Art (Painting/Drawing). The emphasis COFA places on research are a fundamental aspect of contemporary practice.

## Constructed Painting

Opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 2 March  
Kudos Gallery  
6 Napier St. Paddington  
continues until 13 March 2010

featured: Margaret Roberts, documentation of ‘air’, 2008. Installation at SCA Galleries, Sydney. Photographer Salvatore Panatteri, image courtesy the artist

# WHAT'S ON

## WEEK 1

### Monday 1 March

Student Cookbook & UNSweetened Literary Journal entries open  
[www.arc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au)

Deadline for submissions to Summer Poems exhibition - open to female artists working in photography. [http://lightjourneys.net.au/?page\\_id=1](http://lightjourneys.net.au/?page_id=1)

Off The Wall - Melbourne Art Fair deadline [www.offthewall.com.au](http://www.offthewall.com.au)

### Tuesday 2 March

5-7.30pm "Constructed Painting" exhibition opening at Kudos Gallery  
6 Napier St. Paddington

### Wednesday 3 March

6-8pm Firstdraft Gallery reopens!  
116-118 Chalmers St Surry Hills

### Thursday 4 March

4pm Get The Goss Gallery Tour  
meet loading dock COFA

5pm Start of Semester Party @ The Roundhouse, UNSW Kenso

6pm opening at MOP  
2/39 Abercrombie St Chippendale

### Saturday 6 March

Check out alternative mardi gras parties here [www.facebook.com/AlternaFringe](http://www.facebook.com/AlternaFringe)

### Sunday 7 March

Last day to enrol in Semester T1 courses

## WEEK 2

### Monday 8 March International Women's Day

Australia Council ArtStart Grants deadline up to \$10,000 [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/artstart2](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/artstart2)

### Tuesday 9 March

12.30pm Free lunch for Arc members at COFA  
4-6pm Life drawing at Kudos Gallery, free for Arc members  
\$5 for non-members

### Thursday 4 March

4pm Get The Goss Gallery Tour  
meet loading dock COFA

5pm Start of Semester Party @ The Roundhouse, UNSW Kenso

6pm opening at MOP  
2/39 Abercrombie St Chippendale

### Saturday 6 March

Check out alternative mardi gras parties here [www.facebook.com/AlternaFringe](http://www.facebook.com/AlternaFringe)

### Sunday 7 March

Last day to enrol in Semester T1 courses

## WEEK 3

### Tuesday 16 March

3pm THINKING MINDS PANEL DISCUSSION - TOPIC: Feminism  
What does it mean today?  
Arc Common Room E Block COFA

5-7.30pm MOMENT: MINUS THEM & MEANING opens at Kudos Gallery

### Friday 19 March

2010 Kudos Gallery Management Committee applications close  
contact [kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au](mailto:kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au)

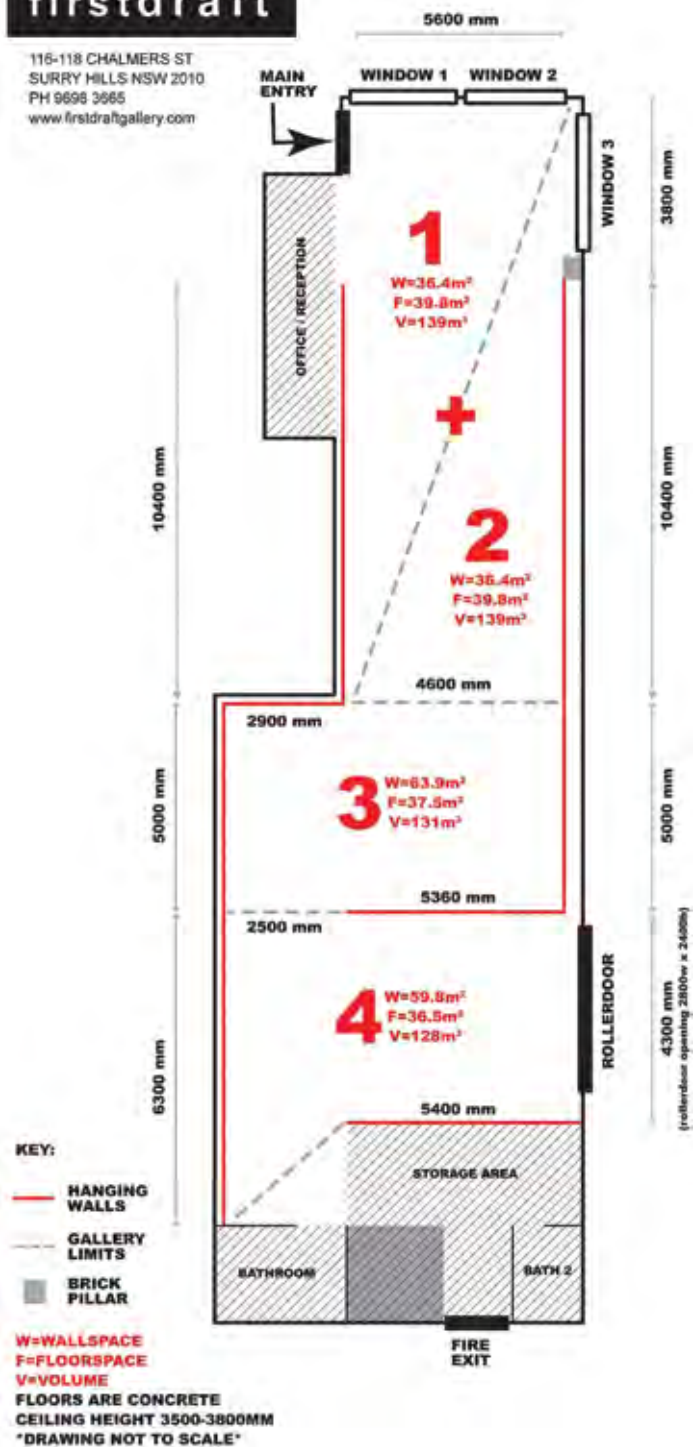


Beata Geyer, 'Polychromatic', acrylic on MDF, 2006. Installation at Artspace, Sydney. Image courtesy the artist.



# firstdraft

116-118 CHALMERS ST  
 SURRY HILLS NSW 2010  
 PH 9698 3665  
 www.firstdraftgallery.com



# firstdraft gallery re-opens!

Change and renewal must be in the air for 2010. After a period of re-development Sydney's infamous Firstdraft Gallery, one of Australia's longest running Artist Run Initiatives reopens its doors on the 3 March. The new space is launching with an exciting exhibition of emerging artists Amira Hajar, Alice Lang, David Sullivan, Lachlan Anthony and David Withers.

In 2009 the gallery underwent a massive interior renovation due to a council fire order on the building. So the team of directors: Cy Norman, Will French, Jessica Tyrell, Debbie Pryor, Connie Anthes, Diana Smith and Kelly Doley decided to take action! The plan was to be fire safe, remove the walls and replace the lights by February 2010. After many months of gut wrenching hard work from the Directors, the volunteers and amazing financial support from the community Firstdraft Gallery is now a beautiful open plan gallery space with moveable walls and proper lighting!

And Thanks to the City of Sydney - Firstdraft's Studio Residency program has moved to a new studio complex in Riley St. called The Depot. The Depot will house twelve studio artists, Runway magazine offices, the Firstdraft Gallery archive and the Big Fag Press workshop. This is bound to be a fantastic hub for exciting thinkers and creative types- this space is one to watch!

Unfortunately the submission deadline has just closed for Firstdraft's Studio Residency program, Exhibition program and their Emerging Writers and Emerging Curators programs but will reopen in May 2010. Stay tuned to the website for upcoming events and exhibitions - this is bound to be an exciting year for the 'draft!

www.firstdraftgallery.com

Gallery Official opening: 6-8pm  
 Wednesday 3 March 2010  
 Exhibition continues: to 21 March  
 Artist talks: 4.30pm Sunday 21 March

116-118 Chalmers St.  
 Surry Hills NSW 2010  
 mail@firstdraftgallery.com

## MOMENT: MINUS THEM & MEANING

Adrian Clement  
Alex Clapham  
Andrew Haining  
Zoe Robertson.

Opens 5-7.30pm Tuesday 16 March  
Continues to 27 March 2010

MOMENT: MINUS THEM & MEANING to be held at Kudos Gallery in March claims to 'play a Situationist game' and it aims to engage (or confront) audiences by doing so. For the exhibition this group of artists Adrian Clement, Alex Clapham, Andrew Haining, Zoe Robertson will construct the work in the gallery over the course of the exhibition and will hold auditions for additional artists to join the show. It is this conceptual and literal state of 'flux' that led Kelly to have a chat with one of the artists in the show, COFA graduate and Kudos Gallery Intern, Alex Clapham.

**This show sounds really interesting, it sounds like it might verge on an anarchic experience, I was firstly wondering - What can the viewer expect when walking in to an exhibition like this? What have you got planned?**

Who can say really, lets just say you can be sure to expect the unexpected. I mean we've tried working with a failed revolution/ arionism

**Are you constructing most of the artwork in the gallery during the exhibition, if so, why? Will it be collaborative?**

Our show is mostly sartorial, trendy yet Practicalism.

**Why are you auditioning for extra artists- why not stick to the ones in the show?**

Coz Pam Shaw's broke both her legs and we wanna dance with you!

**What are you looking for in the auditions?**

6'5 blonde hair blue eyes, athletic physic, NFS, TBC, CEO, AGM, SFA.

**You mention a 'Situationist game'- what is Situationism?**

Situationalism doesn't even existentialism, Pauline Hanson's not dead, she's doing her working holiday out in Sheppards Bush, making a film called Sheppards Bush and when those pics turned out not to be Pauline, she realized the error of her ways. After meeting doctor who... she said she wanted commitment. She always said she wanted commitment, so she's gone back in time because she wanted to be a role model to young girls because it's so rare to see bad porn imagery on TV and they were proof that it take all types.

**What did you study at COFA- was going to art school all that you expected? What was the best thing about COFA?**

"I've been here six years and I'm still looking for that dream."

**How did you all meet and why did you decide to have a show together?**

We all met on Second Life, where we have a fashion band called, Three Letter Acronym.

# MOMENT: THEM & MEANING

Adrian Clement  
Andrew Haining

Alex Clapham  
Zoe Robertson

OPENING 6PM 23RD MARCH  
**KUDOS GALLERY**  
6 Napier St Paddington

We will be holding artist auditions from the 1st of March  
For more information on how to audition and to pitch us your artwork, please call

**0420283422**

Investing more in less, we wish for the moment. Come and give something to us...

# 4x7

Well welcome back you beautiful COFA kids. My, alot has happened during these past few months of drinking, relaxing, working, travelling, creating and general non uni-ing. Last episode of 4x7 (if you can stretch your minds... back... way back... we had KUDOS show events, dust storms, the Black Widow returned from her amazing Fowlers Gap adventure (which you can all apply to do by the way) and preparation was under way for DEMOLITION DERBY, which, between you and me, was the best party EVER!

**BBC:** wow. What a year guys. What a year. We have had yogis from yoga, byclops the bike man, sacred pool cue art school staffs broken and battles waged (and lost) against NAS and SCA. I don't know what this year could possibly bring that could eclipse this dramatic detritus that was 2009.

## BANG CRASH

**Gusto:** Hello fair maiden BB, I have been watching you from afar, from this high rooftop yonder way and, my love, my cherished angel cake, I am here. I am here finally, to take you away, to the south, where music plays and artists frolic freely in the meadows. Say you'll join me BB. Feel my dreams ignite a fire inside you, and follow me to the great beyond.

**BBC:** I will Gusto. I will.

**Mac:** Ah but BB - whatever will we do without you? You are the essence of life and love and all things arty and farty at this fine institution.

**BBC:** Mac, fear not, I know a woman, a fine, upstanding woman, full of love and life and all things arty. Her name is Hooley Dooley and she will take my place in the high chair of The Coordinator of Student Activities. And she will do a fine, fine job.

**Black Widow:** Ah I have heard of this Hooley Dooley. The wise sages of the art world have big plans for her. Her presence here at 4x7 will bring us great luck and good fortune. Travel well BB. We will always hold a special place for you in our hearts.

As BBC and Gusto fly into a setting sky, a new day begins at 4x7, and preparation commences for O-Week and the upcoming year of activities.

**Hooley Dooley:** Ok. O-Ho-HoWeek. I want pancakes, DJ's, Art Attack installations, Film Screenings and pirate shanties with eye patches and moustaches. Arrrrr ye with me wenches?

**Black Widow and Mac:** Arrrrr eye Dooley. We be your scurvy lot, we'll sail your mast and clean your decks. We'll sail this rough seas that is COFA O-week together as the Arrrrr Crew.

**Hooley Dooley:** And for our students this year! Let's resuscitate Life Drawing, Re Birth Gallery Tours, and Re Live Discussion Panels. We have so much to give the students of COFA.

**Black Widow:** Indeed Dooley. Indeed we do. Shall we make membership \$69 for the whole year so all students can enjoy what we have to offer?

**Hooley Dooley and Mac:** \$69!!!! AMAZING!!! EVERYONE CAN JOIN!!!!

And so begins another year at 4x7; So many exciting events at this little COFA campus to look forward to. Amidst the rubble you will find much treasure, come hunting with Arrrry crew in the Arc office.



FEBRUARY - APRIL 2010

## KUDOS GALLERY 6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021

Wed to Fri 11am - 6pm, Sat 11am - 4pm  
Mon + Tue by appointment only  
T: (02) 9326 0034  
cofa.arc.unsw.edu.au  
kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au

Kudos Gallery is run by COFA Students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Limited



## THE THREADS BETWEEN Marnie Ross, Mitchell Kelly, Mike Barnard

Departing from traditional depictions of the image in print, the threads between reveals three painting-based artists' visceral engagement with sensory and psychological experience in a series of intimate etchings, collagraphs and carborundum prints.

*Beer Snobs ... enjoy beer*

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY  
CONTINUES TO 27 FEBRUARY 2010



## CONSTRUCTED PAINTING Beata Geyer, Rossana Martinez, Francesca Mataraga, Margaret Roberts

The artists in this exhibition use the language of painting and drawing to explore architectural space and three-dimensional space through the use of line and colour. Their work re-invents approaches to these traditional formats.

Image: Beata Geyer.

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 2 MARCH  
CONTINUES TO 13 MARCH 2010



## MOMENT: MINUS THEM & MEANING On the Artists team: Adrian Clement, Alex Clapham, Andrew Haining, Zoe Robertson

Lets play a Situationist game, without them or their meanings, artists vs audience, creating disaster without loving it, from A-Z and nothing in between. If your name falls between A and Z, you could join our ranks. Look out for auditions, first week of March!

OPENS 5-7.30PM TUESDAY 16 MARCH  
CONTINUES TO 27 MARCH 2010



UTE & VAN HIRE, GRANTS & AWARDS,  
DISCOUNTS & VOUCHERS, KUDOS  
GALLERY, STUDIO RESIDENCY,  
REPRESENTATION, LEGAL SUPPORT,  
ARI TOURS, DISCUSSION PANELS,  
LUNCHES, LOUNGES, PARTIES ...

# Arc Membership

COFA



JOIN NOW  
\$69



ARC

LIVE Student Life