

Basil Sellers Art Prize 2010

Tony Schwensen

Tony Schwensen explores the human condition through performance, video, installation and sculpture. An interrogation of sport, its subcultures and vernacular has been a constant strand of investigation throughout Schwensen's artistic career. In his recent video work, he documents his attempts to explore the nature of obsession in fandom, and the impact of sports teams upon local and regional cultural identity.

Tony Schwensen was born in Sydney in 1970. He has exhibited widely across Australia and internationally. Recent group exhibitions include *Points d'impact*, Piano Nobile, Geneva, Switzerland; *Cy and dusty: Big Pinko* (with Andre Stitt), Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; *Off the Strip*, Contemporary Arts Center, Las Vegas, United States; *Terra Nullius*, ACC Galerie, Weimar, Germany (2009); *Revolutions: forms that turn*, Biennale of Sydney, Museum of Contemporary Art (2008); *Difficult pleasures*, Uplands Gallery, Melbourne (2008); *Contemporary Australia: optimism*, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane (2008); and *Inport IV—international video-performance art festival*, Tallinn, Estonia (2006). Solo exhibitions include *Change without chaos (now more than ever)*, Uplands Gallery, Melbourne; *Regret, remorse, repent*, Le Lieu, Quebec City, Canada (2010); *Post colonial cluster fuck* (collaboration with Trace Collective), Artspace, Sydney; *Exasperations*, Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney (2009); *Legacy*, Trace: Installation Artspace, Cardiff, Wales (2008); *Complain to an Australian about Australia Day*, Michael Lett Gallery, Auckland (2006); and *FATWHITESTRAIGHTBALDGUY videoperformance 1999–2005*, Performance Space, Sydney (2005). Schwensen has undertaken residencies in Rotterdam, Tokyo and Paris. He is a current doctoral candidate at the Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney University.

Tony Schwensen is represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney; and Uplands Gallery, Melbourne.

Further reading:

- Chapman, Christopher, 'Videoperformance: Tony Schwensen in Sydney', *Art Monthly Australia*, no. 179, 2005.
- Finnegan, Ann, 'Hyperplexic desalinated but not scary', *Artlink*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2008.
- French, Blair, 'Tony Schwensen: love it or leave it', *Art & Australia*, vol. 46, no. 2, 2008.
- Gawronski, Alex, 'Did someone say "politically correct"?', *Broadsheet*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2007.
- Geczy, Adam, 'Tony Schwensen: FATWHITESTRAIGHTBALDGUY', *Eyeline*, no. 57, 2005.