

PUSH AND PULL: AN IN SITU RESPONSE

SATURDAY 5 JUNE

3.35PM / WHEN I ARRIVE A DIY SIGN IN THE FRONT WINDOW ADVERTISES A GARAGE SALE AND INSIDE LITTLE ORANGE DOT STICKERS WITH SCRIBBLED PRICES CURL OFF EVERY OTHER OBJECT ACCORDINGLY / LATE AFTERNOON SUN BOUNCES OFF THE APARTMENT BUILDING ACROSS THE ROAD / WILLIAM IS HERE I'D FORGOTTEN HE LIVES CLOSE BY WE CHAT ABOUT WORK AND YOGA WHILE OTHERS LOUNGE CASUALLY ON AN IKEA COUCH AND OLD WOODEN CHAIRS / MUSIC HUMMING QUIETLY FROM A LAPTOP IS DROWNED OUT PERIODICALLY BY CARS RACING PAST ON BOTANY RD / **HOW ARE YOU? LOVELY TO SEE YOU!** MORE PEOPLE ARRIVE LOCKSMITH DIRECTORS KENZEE AND KENZIE SHUFFLING AND CHEEK KISSING / **HEY WILL WE GOTTA EAT LUNCH** / A TENPIN BOWLING SHOW IS PLAYING ON AN OLD-SCHOOL TV ADDING TO MY CURIOUS SENSE OF BEING IN A TIME WARP / **A GUY CAME WITH SHARP KNIVES THEY ALL GOT TAKEN OUT / CAN YOU DO ANYTHING? YEAH ANYTHING YOU WANT/** NEXT TO ME ON A TABLE IS A COLLECTION OF RANDOM OBJECTS PENS A COMB BLUE RAFFIA STRING MUGS POCKY CHOC FLAVOUR A YELLOW STREET SIGN / THE SPACE HAS THE UNRULY CHARM OF A STUDENT SHAREHOUSE LOUNGE ROOM / **SEE YOU!** WILLIAM LEAVES KENZEE RETURNS / AS CHAIRS SCRAPE ACROSS THE FLOOR THE WARMING SMELL OF A LATE LUNCH FILLS THE SMALL ROOM CURRY AND RICE BUT THIS QUIET MOMENT PROMPTLY GIVES WAY TO LIVELY YELLING AND LAUGHING AS A GAME OF FOOSBALL SETS INTO MOTION / AN APRON PINNED TO THE WALL ANNOUNCES IT ALL STARTS WITH AN EGG AND TEXT SCRAWLING FROM BENEATH I AM A WALRUS AND EVEN MORE BIZARRE BRACKING WATER HAS SHIT TAXONOMY / **OH MY GOD A WOMAN TRIED TO BUY THE FOOSBALL TABLE FOR \$3! CAUSE SOMEONE HAD PUT A \$3 STICKER ON IT HILARIOUS!** / ITS VERY CONVIVIAL I'M THINKING NOT MUCH SHIFTING GOING ON THOUGH THE FOOSBALL DOES ENACT A FRENZIED PUSHING AND PULLING OF SORTS / **OOPS SORRY** A SHOE SLAPS MY SHIN / **JUST FIND THE CREEPIEST THINGS IN THIS BOOK AND CUT THEM OUT** A STRATEGY FOR WALL COLLAGE / **SO ARE YOU STILL MOVING FURNITURE AROUND OR WHAT? YOU'RE THE AUDIENCE YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE IT** / PEOPLE STIR INTO ACTION AND THE FOOSBALL TABLE GETS HOISTED UP ONTO CHAIRS WHERE IT SITS PRECARIOUSLY NO LOGIC AS TO WHY THIS / A COOL BREEZE THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR GENTLY BLOWS A MASS OF CARDBOARD DYNAMITE TUBES HANGING FROM AN UPSIDE DOWN TERRACOTTA POT IN THE BACK DOORWAY THAT LEADS TO THE RESIDENCE BEYOND / **YEAH, WOO HOO! WELL DONE** THERE'S A FOOSBALL OWN GOAL / **FRUSTRATING ISN'T IT NEARLY! AH** / A FRIEND OF NICK'S IS TYING FLURO STRNG TO A LADDER BEHIND HIM YELLOW CHILDREN'S CHAIRS ARE STACKED HIGH IN THE BACK CORNER NEARBY A MANGA SPECIAL SEX ISSUE AND THE OUTER EDGE OF A PUZZLE ASSEMBLED WITH OTHER PIECES SPELLING OUT WE GIVE UP / THE STRING MAN CONSULTS WITH NICK FROM UP THE LADDER **THE ONLY REASON I WOULD ARGUE WITH THAT IS THE TIME LAPSE WON'T PICK IT UP ALL HAIL THE TIME LAPSE** THAT LAST BIT WAS SAID WITH IRONY BUT SEEMS REVEALING NONETHELESS / I START THINKING ABOUT A QUESTION POSED BY LUCAS ON THE PUSH AND PULL BLOG ABOUT WHETHER THE PERFORMANCE IS BEING STRUCTURED FOR THE VIDEO DOCUMENTATION / THE FLURO STRING NOW TRAILS FROM A SUSPENDED PAPER MOBILE ALONG THE GALLERY TO THE FRONT WINDOW / MOUSE TRAPS ARE SLYLY REMOVED FROM THEIR WRAPPERS AND AN OBAMA PAPER DOLL BOOKLET IS HELD UP PROUDLY A GOOD FIND **PSYCHOLOGICAL DISINTEGRATION!** / NOW THERE'S MORE ADAPTATION ENLIVENING THE SPACE / **ARE YOU ASTRID? NO, I'M AMY** / AMY IS WEAVING THE BLUE RAFFIA STRING THROUGH AN OLD BICYCLE WHEEL RIM WITH THE MOUSE TRAPS ATTACHED / THE FOOSBALL TABLE IS RETIRED TO THE FRONT CORNER AND NICK SETS ABOUT CLEARING SPACE CHAIRS ARE UNSTACKED A MASSAGE TABLE IS DRAGGED INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM / **I'LL DO YOU A MASSAGE** / THE FLURO STRING HAS GROWN INTO A WEB AND WEAVES ACROSS THE FRONT WINDOW DOWN TO THE FLOOR UP TO A BROKEN RED UMBRELLA / **IT USED TO BE A LOCKMSITH AND NOW IT'S A GALLERY SPACE** / NEWSPAPERS ARE INTERLEAVED ACROSS THE TABLE DINNER PLANS NEGOTIATED NICK BEGINS TO GIVE HIS MOTHER A BACK MASSAGE ON THE TABLE AND ASTRID ARRIVES WITH MORE CURRY AND RICE / **YEAH WE SAW DISGRACE TODAY WHICH WAS PRETTY GOOD YOU KNOW SOUTH AFRICA** / THE FLURO STRINGER-UPPER-ER SQUEEZES BEHIND ME AND TUGS HIS LINE OUT OF THE GALLERY / **4.47PM**

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

4.14PM / IT'S LATE ON THE LAST AFTERNOON AND SCATTERED ACROSS THE GALLERY ARE JAGGED FRAGMENTS OF THICK BROKEN GLASS SUGGESTING A DESTRUCTIVE GESTURE FROM A TV I'M TOLD SEEMS COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT OF ENGAGEMENT LAST TIME I WAS HERE / A KNIFE HAS REAPPEARED ITS SHARP POINT WEDGED THROUGH A B+W PICTURE OF A FACE THEN A FRESH GREEN APPLE THEN INTO THE GYPROCK WALL / EASY MUSIC PLAYS AS A SIREN WHINES DOWN BOTANY AND MORE PEOPLE WANDER IN INCLUDING LUCAS / **I LIKE INSTRUCTIONS** / IT FEELS HAPHAZARD NOT REALLY ANY SEMBLANCE OF A DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT AND I SWEEP FOR A WHILE FEELING SOME KIND OF COMPULSION TOWARDS ORDER / CHAIRS INSTALLED AROUND THE WALLS OFFER IMPOSSIBLE SEATS / **I WANT TO CLEAN UP** / JES T IS ENGROSSED IN THE FOLDER OF EPHEMERA AND INSTRUCTIONS SENT BY THE KAPROW FOUNDATION / **I'M LUCAS BY THE WAY / I'VE STARTED UP A VIMEO ACCOUNT** / ADAM BEGINS TO MAKE SMALL AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLE KNIFE SCENARIO PLUGGING THE CABLE OF A NEARBY VCR PLAYER INTO THE GRANNY'S FLESH / I DECIDE THE CAR TRYES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM NEED TO GO THEY'RE STIFLING THE FLOW OF MOVEMENT / CRUMBLY REMAINS OF A ROUND OF SOFT CHEESE ARE SLUMPING ON THEIR WRAPPER AND GROWING CRUSTY NOT LOOKING APPETISING / THE QUIET FOCUS OF ALEX TAPPING AT HIS LAPTOP AND JES STILL READING IS DISRUPTED BY THE TEAR OF TAPE AS IT'S BOUND AROUND THE RUNGS OF A LADDER / **SO WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? / YOU STOLE MY PILE / NO NO NO IT WAS BEING CRATED** / A PINK NEON LIGHT FLICKERS FROM THE CEILING MINGLING WITH THE FLASH OF SOMEONE'S CAMERA / **I MET LUCAS AND LIZZIE AT A PARTY AT VANESSA'S** / ASTRID TAKES ON AN ENORMOUS MERINGUE CAKE AND I DECLINE A SHOT OF WHISKY WHICH NICK PROPOSES TO DILUTE WITH HIS OJ / ON THE SURFACES AROUND THE ROOM BITS AND PIECES OF COLOURED WOOD AND BROKEN GLASS ARE ARRANGED LIKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS / THE REDUNDANT GARAGE SALE DOTS ARE BEING METHODICALLY REMOVED / **BYE!** AS A CLUSTER OF PEOPLE LEAVE I MULL OVER WHETHER BEING HERE FOR THE PROJECT'S LAST OFFICIAL HOUR REQUIRES SOME KIND OF SPECIAL EFFORT TOWARDS A FINALE MADE DIFFICULT BY THE FACT SOMEONE HAS GLUED EVERYTHING DOWN INCREDIBLY FRUSTURATING! BUT I RECKON THIS IS A CLEVER INTERVENTION / A RADIO STILL PRICED AT \$20 BROADCASTS SOME JAZZ / **WHERE'S THE PUZZLE GONE?** / I UNPIN SOME COLLAGES OF CUT OUT WORDS AND SCRAWLED TEXT THE FIRST SAYS

YOU

TAKE THE SPACE
FOR AN EXPEDITION
OR THE MARKINGS
OF A TRANSIT-POST
JUST

SO YOU WILL KNOW

UNPICKING THE SHARP SPOKES OF AN UMBRELLA OUT FROM BETWEEN A TWISTED WIRE OBJECT MAYBE ONCE A DECORATIVE OUTDOOR GARDEN BOWL THE ORPHANED BRIGHT RED UMBRELLA COVER HANGS OFF THE WALL LIKE A LIMP BALLERINA TUTU FROM A SCRAP OF MASKING TAPE / **LOOK SOMEONE WROTE AN ANARCHIST DIDDY ON THE WALL!** / JES NOW HAS AN APRON ON IT ALL STARTS WITH AN EGG MAYBE IN AID OF THE DOMESTIC TABLEAU WE'VE DECIDED TO CONSTRUCT / MORE PEOPLE ARRIVE SEEMINGLY TO PARTICIPATE BY SOCIALISING / **WHO WENT CRAZY WITH THE LIQUID NAILS? THAT'S THE NAKED DUDE** / STILL THE ORANGE TAPE IS BEING PURPOSEFULLY BOUND AROUND THE LADDER AT THE FRONT / **WHAT ABOUT HERE? THEY DON'T HAVE ANOTHER SHOW UNTIL SEPTEMBER** / THE FINAL MOUTHFUL OF MERINGUE TART IS DEVoured AND THE LOUD DRONE OF A HAND DRILL SIGNALS THE START OF MORE RE-CONSTRUCTION / OUR LOUNGE SCENE WITH PRETEND FAKE POT PLANT IS NOW ASSEMBLED SO WE DIVERT OUR ATTENTION TO CHATTING WITH SAM ABOUT HIS NOT-QUITE MAILBOXES UNTIL WE'RE STARTLED BY A LOUD CRASH AS SOMETHING MAYBE A CHAIR IS WRENCHED OFF THE WALL / **SEE YOU ALEX BYE** / TEARING RIPPING SOME SHREDS OF HOT PINK CORRUGATED CARDBOARD GLINT FROM THE FLOOR / I CHAT TO NICK FOR A WHILE ABOUT HOW HE BECAME INVOLVED IN THERE GOES THE NEIGHBOURHOOD THEN READY TO LEAVE / LUCAS ENCOURAGES ME TO CLAIM A TEXT-CANVAS I'M ADMIRING THAT DESCRIBES THE ACTION IN THE SPACE ON A PREVIOUS DAY AND EVEN THOUGH I FEEL GUILTY CLUTCH IT TO MY CHEST AND STEP OUT INTO THE COLD / **6.03PM**

This enactment of Alan Kaprow's participatory installation *Push and Pull: A Furniture Comedy for Hans Hofmann* (1963), was presented by Lucas Ihlein, Nick Keys and Astrid Lorange at Locksmith Project Space 28 May–13 June 2009 as part of the exhibition *There Goes The Neighbourhood*. www.pushandpull.com.au www.theregoestheneighbourhood.org