

## MEDIA RELEASE



### LOOSELY SPEAKING

RUTH BUCHANAN (NZ), SARAH CROWEST AND ADELLE MILLS  
CURATED BY PIP WALLIS

EXHIBITION DATES: 23 MARCH – 27 APRIL 2013  
OPENING: FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2013, 6–8PM

*Isn't this entire, unending world constructed by the understanding out of incomprehensibility or chaos?*  
[Schlegel]

*Loosely Speaking* makes a case for not-understanding. Language and coded behaviour can be restrictive in their clarity and this exhibition, curated by Pip Wallis, defies concrete logic in favour of indeterminacy. In this exhibition the artists Ruth Buchanan, Sarah Crowest and Adelle Mills extend the gap between comprehension and confusion, unfolding the potential for subversion and new ways of knowing that exist in the abstract.

Featuring work by three women, *Loosely Speaking* considers the politics of language. In each of these artists' work abstraction and indecipherability are used as a polemic strategy of resistance – one that defies the authoritarian logic of definition and upends the inherent phallogocentrism of language.

The artists use sound, video and sculpture to perform quietly radical gestures that point to the uncertain space between subjects. *Loosely Speaking* occupies this space and replaces the logic of semiotics with the poetics of art making where metaphor is material, syntax is spatial strategy and composition becomes choreography.

The work of Berlin based New Zealand artist Ruth Buchanan fractures the logics of language and speech. In an intimate audio work Buchanan compares conversation to shifting weather patterns, and an instructional library notice

becomes an absurd poem that laughs wryly at the instability of language. Her work in the exhibition features a fabric installation that translates poetic devices of metaphor and syntax into spatial material and gently mocks our failed attempts to corral the world into categories and certainties.

Melbourne based artist Sarah Crowest's practice is driven by intuition. In her work she follows impulses beyond the realm of understanding in the faith that they will generate new ways of knowing. Crowest's works are a form of social mapping, composed of scraps of fabric that the artist cuts from other people's clothes at social events.

In a new video work Melbourne artist Adelle Mills lays bare the predetermined modes of action and communication that are dictated by the spaces we move through. In this work four bodies repeat each others' gestures through a live video loop that reveals the 'gap' of interpretation, or misinterpretation, that lurks in all our interactions.

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Image: Adelle Mills, *acting doing*, 2013, double channel video still.