

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE



STEPHEN BRAM

200 GERTRUDE STREET

EXHIBITION DATES: SATURDAY 14 JUNE – SATURDAY 12 JULY 2014
OPENING: FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014, 6–8PM

Gertrude Contemporary is pleased to present *200 Gertrude Street*, a major site-specific installation by Stephen Bram.

Six wall planes have been inserted into the gallery, enfolding the space in an all-encompassing concertina. Three deep ‘valleys’ carve the rooms, repeating from floor to ceiling. Walking through these angular passages the viewer is variously enveloped in light and dark; we experience an internal space that refers constantly to the outside world.

This work draws on Bram’s ongoing project that uses two or three vanishing points in space to create a structural form. These points are outside the boundaries of the work and so the installation constantly reaffirms its relationship with the external world despite its formal appearance.

Our physical, spatial experience of the installation foregrounds a philosophical enquiry; how is meaning attributed through the relationship between objects and people. Bram’s project explores this question by refusing to attribute significance to the vanishing points he nominates.

Abstract artwork is sometimes considered either work about nothing or work about itself. *200 Gertrude Street* is instead abstraction that encompasses the arbitrariness of meaning making. Bram makes visible the structural supports of the forms; the timber struts of each wall reveal themselves to the viewer and the parallax view of the work shifts constantly in accordance with our movement.

200 Gertrude Street is the first in a series of exhibitions by Gertrude Contemporary alumni in celebration of the community of artists who have shaped a Melbourne institution over three decades.

Stephen Bram lives and works in Melbourne. Recent exhibitions include *Songs of Sirens*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 2009; *Parallel Collisions: 2012 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art*, Art Gallery of South Australia; Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, 2013 and *Stephen Bram*, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne, 2014. Stephen Bram is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery.

Image: Stephen Bram, 'Level 3, E29, NGV', 2013, installation, *Melbourne Now*, NGV. Courtesy of the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.

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