

## MEDIA RELEASE



### WHY NOT WALK BACKWARD? PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY 24 MAY, 4:30PM – 6PM

ALEKS DANKO, BONITA ELY, JULIE EWINGTON,  
TIM JOHNSON, ROBYN RAVLICH

Seminal Australian performance works will be re-performed at Gertrude Contemporary as part of the current exhibition *Why not walk backward?* curated by Brooke Babington and Liang Luscombe.

This afternoon of performance work seeks to re-examine Australia's often forgotten history of performance art and presents an opportunity to encounter these works in a contemporary context. The event will include a number of performance works from the 1970s and 1980s that have been reworked to be re-performed by the artists and invited performers.

ALEKS DANKO, ROBYN RAVLICH and  
JULIE EWINGTON, *This Performance is a Mistake* (1972)

BONITA ELY, *Murray River Punch* (1980-1981)

TIM JOHNSON, *Light Performance* (1971-1972)

The exhibition *Why not walk backward?*, at Gertrude Contemporary until Saturday 31 May, considers the implications of reiteration.

To repeat, when contemporary time threatens to subsume our sense of history and narrative, is to propose a different type of relationship to time.

The group of five Australian and international artists in *Why not walk backward?*, Fiona Abicare, Nina Beier, Tania Bruguera, Catherine or Kate and Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, retrace old steps – their own and others – using appropriation to deal with the ghosts of the past in new and imaginative ways.

*Why no walk backward?* is a Next Wave festival project and is supported by the City of Yarra.

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