

FREE LARGE PRINT Information sheet. Please take one.

Front

Trish Morrissey

26 June to 6 September 2009

Trish Morrissey's new work explores themes related to the beach, family photography and motherhood. Fact and fiction blur as Morrissey plays different characters in each of the works, continuing her investigation into the links between photography and performance, identity and memory.

The twelve photographs of ***Front*** appear at first glance to be everyday holiday snapshots of different groups of families and friends at the beach. On closer inspection, one figure re-appears in each image: that of the artist. Morrissey shape shifts into different female characters, replacing one woman in each group. After carefully setting up a large format camera, Morrissey borrowed the clothes of the woman, usually the mother figure, and took her place in the group. Each piece within the series is titled by the name of the woman who Morrissey replaced within the group.

Ideas of Refinement, Principles of Taste is a video work that was shot on location in Melbourne, Australia, and shows Morrissey eating a picnic in an apparently beautiful setting. The title comes from the obituary of Georgina McCrae, the wife of a nineteenth century settler. McCrae was the illegitimate daughter of a duke. After marrying a reckless prospector, for whom she bore nine children, she was cut off from her estate by

her jealous stepmother. She went from living in a Scottish castle to living in the shanty-town that Melbourne was in 1840. Despite unbearable hardships, she managed to uphold Victorian standards of society and respectability and is credited with being the 'founding mother' of Melbourne's cultural community.

There's You is a sound installation inspired by memories of Morrissey's holidays on the west coast of Ireland. Her family visited the same resort, for the same two weeks in July, for over twenty years. The monologue is constructed from her mother's memories, prompted by looking at their old holiday photographs. By sitting inside the beach hut like structure, Morrissey intends that listeners will become immersed in these overlapping reminiscences, and recall or imagine their own photographs and memories.

To find out more about the work browse our artist information folder and reading table in the Lounge. To find out about related talks and events, please pick up our leaflet for further details.



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