

SWEARING  
IN SWIMWEAR

---

MALCOLM  
WHITTAKER

MARCH 06 - MARCH 17

SWEARING IN SWIMWEAR, 2014

VIDEO, 240 MIN

MALCOLM WHITTAKER

PERFORMER: NATALIE RANDALL

CAMERA OPERATOR / EDITOR: REBECCA HURD



SWEARING IN SWIMWEAR is a four-hour durational video-performance work in which a young woman is doing just that: swearing in swimwear. It is a challenge akin to a game, that game being to continue to swear without repeating oneself. In undertaking the game the performer begins to play with the limits, delivery, labour and ambiguity of language. Over the duration of the performance she transcends the gratuitousness of an all too familiar image to speak directly to the viewer in a range of ambivalent emotions. Emotions that are brought about by an unassisted and unrehearsed undertaking of what is a seemingly straightforward task.

The simple structure of the performance, and of the shoot, plays out in an aesthetic that is as crude as the content. As real time unfolds within this activity the performance inevitably begins to collapse, and so too do binaries of seduction and repulsion, the familiar and the strange, the sensical and the non-sensical and entertainment/ offense/ banality.

Just what is it that constitutes swearing, and what role does it serve anyway? In this extreme it is certainly anything but a lazy act.

Special Thanks: Laura Caesar, Alistair Davies, Aileen Huynh.



MALCOLM WHITTAKER, *SWEARING IN SWIMWEAR*,  
DIGITAL STILL, 2014

# MALCOLM WHITTAKER

is a young man from Sydney who works as an interdisciplinary artist, writer, researcher and performer. He does this in solo pursuits, as a member of performance collective Team MESS and in collaborations with other artists and non-artists. His work is often made and executed through the engagement of participants and collaborators in the framing of “play spaces”.

Malcolm’s work has been situated in forms ranging from theatre and gallery settings to site-specific and public interventions to performance lectures, film shoots, phone calls, support groups, walks in the park, letters in the mail and the borrowing of books from the library.

Malcolm has made and presented work across Australia, as well as in the UK and Finland. As an inaugural recipient of the Australia Council Early Career Residency grant he is currently the first ever Artist-in-Residence at the State Library NSW. Selected presentations of work in 2014 include *Ignoramus Anonymous* at State Library NSW, Waverley Council Library, the ‘*Festival of Live Art*’ at Arts House (Melbourne) and the ‘*Sonic Social*’ Performance Space season at the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney); *My Best Friend* with Performance Space in Sydney and with Field Theory in Melbourne; *Jumping the Shark Fantastic* at Campbelltown Arts Centre; and *BINGO Unit* with Team MESS and Country Arts South Australia. Malcolm is also an MA candidate and part-time lecturer at the University of Wollongong’s School of Creative Arts.

[malcolmwhittaker.com](http://malcolmwhittaker.com)



This exhibition is part of IRREVERENTS a curatorial program exploring east coast juvenility and jocularly through the works of Sydney based practitioners.

The programmed artists were chosen for their directness and humour as well as their ability to strike a balance between irreverence and dedication within their individual art practices.

Curated by Grace Mackey and presented by **gaffa** as part of Gaffa Creative Precinct's 2014 guest curator program.

*[irreverents.wordpress.com](http://irreverents.wordpress.com)*

**gaffa**