

## **Bordertown** Lily Hibberd

Gallery

**MARCH 8- 29 2008**

*Bordertown* is a study in conflict, social partition and border construction in Australia. This sound installation relates the story of two women who live in Bordertown. The investigation is centred on a community that straddles two Australian states, a place renowned for historic conflicts. One woman has been dispatched as migrant labour to an internment camp on the outskirts of Bordertown; the other is an angry and disenfranchised young woman from the poorest part of town. Both are witness to escalating antagonism and the social exclusion of women and other minorities in the town. For those living in Bordertown today, existence consists of daily confrontations with an impassable barrier; a wall being constructed along the border that divides the community into two territories: North and South.

As global politics and militarisation trickle down into everyday life they are evident in personal relations, and Australia's brutal history pierces the present in language and architectural structures that defend and divide. While conflict and aggressive human engagement are inevitable, the divisions are fuelled by political elites because this maintains the structure of the dominant culture. Yet borders are not substantiated in mountains, rivers or walls but the people they separate. As the women in the story of Bordertown resist their subjugation, situations of conflict with authority arise. Through a series of assertions their vulnerability is transformed into solidarity through aggressive expressions of courage and resistance. A series of interviews documents the experience of two women who live in Bordertown. These are presented as a sound installation, housed within a large structure that emulates the wall in Bordertown. A book has been produced to accompany the exhibition, which will be available at Conical, or downloadable from [www.lilyhibberd.com](http://www.lilyhibberd.com)

Lily Hibberd works with installation, painting, photography and sound to investigate memory, time and narrative. Her dramatic settings and cinematic or theatrical devices are frequently accompanied by various literary texts and scripts. Recent solo exhibitions, include *Bordertown* at Artspace, Sydney (2008), *Endless Summer: sunglasses and the spectacle of vision* at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces (2007) and *Blinded by the Light*, PICA (2003). Group exhibitions: *Arc Biennial*, QUT Museum, *The Leisure Class*, Australian Cinématèque GoMA; and *Art+Film*, CCP (2004). Lily was National Winner: UBS Art Award at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2000), is represented by Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne. As founding Editor of *un Magazine* is actively involved in arts publication and writing.

Please see overleaf for acknowledgements.

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Anna's voice: HaiHa Le

The Woman's voice: Evelyn Krape

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Sound recording: Ben Dudding

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