

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

MEDIA RELEASE

Esensual Fragments

inhabit me (like a memory): Neil Emmerson

EXHIBITION DATES: 26 MAY - 27 JUNE 1993
OPENING: TUESDAY 25 MAY 6 - 8 PM

Emmerson's concertina of lithographic screens project an erotic and theatrical visual experience. Theatricality and the human body are intimately related: for Emmerson they are one. It is his body that you are inhabiting: borders between the interior and the exterior dissolve. *Inhabit me (like a memory)* is an invocation of an irresolute place where theatricality and flesh adhere in decidedly heterogeneous ways. This reconfiguration relates an understanding of the gay body as style.

The theatre/body rapprochement has a particular and sexually significant function in gay male culture. For gay men the theatricalisation of the body has been an historically powerful arena in which to unmake the sanctioned zones of the body and display them in ways which subvert the given assumptions between procreative sexuality and hetero-normality. Emmerson is not undressing and then cross-dressing the body. He is inventing it.

(Extracted from Robert Schubert's essay for Neil Emmerson's catalogue)

Esensual Fragments is an exhibition in several parts exploring different interpretations of sexuality and sensuality through visual and written media. Unlike many group exhibitions *Esensual Fragments* attempts to give real space to the artist and their work and does not intend an artificial dialogue between the individual artist projects and installations. *Esensual Fragments* will appear in different spaces inside and outside the galleries of ACCA during 1993

Neil Emmerson has been assisted by the Visual Arts/Crafts Board of the Australia Council.

Esensual Fragments was initiated by Juliana Engberg for ACCA.

Esensual Fragments has received a generous project grant from the Australia Council through the Visual Arts/Crafts Board.

Esensual Fragments forthcoming: Karen Finley, Pat HOFFIE

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