

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

Saturday 25 April 12 - 6 pm

Female Factory Mike Parr

Presented by ACCA as part of *Bodies in Space: A Program of Live and Filmic Performative Events* April 1998

The premiere of a new performance work by Mike Parr.

This piece continues Parr's *Sleeping Bride* series and considers notions of simulation or the virtual real, identity and language.

The text used in this performance work comprises a selection of indexing words from the *Australian National Dictionary* which the artist has utilised as a *de facto* performance script since 1991. In this Australian dictionary, Parr has noted a 'recurrent reference to the blacks.'¹ He comments: 'On virtually every page you will find a reference to this constant anxiety in all its ambiguity.' In earlier works, the body of text on each page was 'blacked' out, leaving only the indexing words at the top of each page. This erasure relates strongly to Parr's obliteration of his self-image in the *Self Portrait Project*, his attempt to release the repressed 'other'.

Parr has stated that his recent performance works do not constitute a return to the past; that the performance works of the seventies (a program of which may currently be viewed in the adjacent small gallery) were dominated by the political climate of the time. Recent performances appear to be more informed by the poetics of his *Self Portrait Project* than by the 'political' framework of Parr's earlier performance art - although Parr emphasises that for him it has always been 'the personal that is the political', and, in this sense, his more recent performances also contain a political dimension.

Viewers are free to enter and leave the space in which Parr performs over a six hour period. Viewers are requested not to disturb or touch the artist.

¹ Mike Parr and Graham Coulter-Smith, *Mike Parr. The Self Portrait Project*, Melbourne, Schwartz City, Bookman Press, 1994, pp. 61-62.

Speakers on soundtrack:
Tim Moore
Rebecca Rowe
Colin Stokes
Kelly Sutherland

This event is co-presented by Monash University Gallery

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra 3141 (Melways Map 2L, Ref A1)
Gallery Hours: Tues to Fri 11 - 6 Sat and Sun 2 - 5 acca@adm.monash.edu.au

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Affiliated with Monash University.