

GRID NORTH

27 July to 13 August 2011

Boxcopy 2011

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Anita Holtsclaw
Timothy P Kerr
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Presented by

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precinct

boxcopy



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GRID NORTH

Grid North is a project guided by a simple maxim: to climb is to make one's way upward, often with effort. Modelled on the mountaineer's journey from campsite to summit, this collaborative installation by Brisbane-based Artist-Run Initiative, Boxcopy, strives to offer all the wonderment, thrills and challenges of a trekking adventure equal to those found in the Himalayas or the Alps. Through participating in this specially crafted expedition, Boxcopy invites visitors to discover the varying altitudes and wild vistas of artistic endeavor. *Grid North* is the fifth in a series of large-scale, site-specific projects undertaken by Boxcopy. The Boxcopy committee is made up of practicing artists: Joseph Breikers, Anastasia Booth, Channon Goodwin, Anita Holtsclaw, Timothy P Kerr, Daniel McKewen and Tim Woodward. These major projects foster important opportunities for collaboration and artistic exchange amongst the team.

The first of Boxcopy's major commissions was *Great Expectations*; part of the 2008 Next Wave Festival. *Great Expectations* seeded many of the ideas and themes that have developed in subsequent projects such as triumph and failure, comedy and cynicism, futility and tragedy. *Great Expectations* was presented in multiple locations around Federation Square, Melbourne, and questioned the parallels between our expectations of art and new technology to make the world a better place. Evolving these ideas further in 2010, Boxcopy presented *Some Absolute Beauties* at Seventh Gallery, Melbourne, and *Simple Pleasures*, part of the 2010 Next Wave Festival. Both of these projects embraced the committee's DIY impulses to create objects and structures for the pure joy of honest work. Starting with the utopian premise that the simple act of manual labor, building with the hands using simple, raw materials, was itself a good and pleasurable act, the Boxcopy team used 100 pieces of pine, 4 sheets of structural ply, 300 bricks and 30 square meters of turf to engage in seemingly meaningless and futile building projects.

While these first three projects concentrated on materials and making, the most recent project saw Boxcopy travel to Singapore for a 2-month residency as part of *Invisible Structures: Australian artist collectives in Tokyo, Singapore and Yogyakarta*, an extension of the 2010 Next Wave Festival. Based on the 'Knowledge of London' Examination System (also informally known as The Knowledge), which tests London taxicab drivers' intimate knowledge of the city, the Boxcopy team attempted to learn to navigate the streets of Singapore. A free delivery service, The Boxcopy Publics Carriage Office of Singapore (BPCOS), was then established to provide services for the general public. This process culminated in an exhibition that distilled the cross-cultural experience into simple gestures, ideas and materials at independent cultural space Post-Museum, Singapore. Throughout all of these collaborative projects, the Boxcopy team has balanced a thematic heaviness with a dry, comic delivery that questions the futility of human activities, including art production and consumption.

As the latest project of the series, *Grid North* extends the narrative of this group of artists working together out of a shared sense humour, friendship and a collective interest in the ability of collaborative practice to create innovative and unexpected art experiences for themselves and audiences.

Let the journey to the summit begin!

