

CHRISTOPHER KÖLLER

The Living get the Chicken -The Dead get the Hole



FOTO 2008
FREQ
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Christopher Köller explores issues that have both a personal and a strong social relevance using photography and increasingly, the medium of digital video. He has developed new approaches through an engagement with ideas from a very broad range of disciplines including architectural, social and media theory. His visually engaging works provoke a strong, immediate and even visceral experience at times, but that nevertheless offer up complex layers of meaning to extended and subsequent viewing.

This exhibition of Köller's photographs has been selected from a number of bodies of work from 1980 to 2008. It conveys a consistent interest in photographing people using a varied range of approaches from the early studio portraits, through to photojournalistic work, staged works in which collaborators act out narratives and the most recent formal portraits in which the sitters conspire with Köller to present a negotiated representation of themselves to the world.

Christopher Köller studied at Prahran College in Melbourne under Athol Shmith and John Cato, graduating in 1981 and completed a Masters degree in Fine Art at RMIT University in 2002. He has held solo exhibitions of his photographs, installations and video works in various Australian cities and in Japan, England, Spain and Mexico. His work has been included in group exhibitions in France, Italy and throughout Australia. The Australia Council's Visual Arts Board has awarded Köller two grants and he has been accepted for four residencies; in Los Angeles in 1994, in Milan in 1997, in Tokyo in 2003 and in Barcelona in 2008. Köller's work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the City of Monash, Griffith University, the Bibliotheque Nationale of France, the Sata Corporation Collection Tokyo and numerous private collections. He lectures in photography at the Victorian College of the Arts.