

## **Circling**

In October 2013, we travelled to the Blue Mountains to undertake an art residency titled *Walking Frames*. Reaching the foot of the mountains we were turned away by bushfires and unexpectedly had no place to go. It was a stressful time, not knowing whether to stay or go, but we were offered a place to stay with some distant friends Alena and Oliver, and felt safe for the next few days.

Soon enough, the fires continued to rage, and we were again on the move as our safe haven at Hillside Farm was put on high alert.

In an attempt to continue our intended project; researching the link between walking and arts practice, we commenced short walks - along the creek, traversing the shoreline, and around in circles.

Beginning with the questions: *How can walking be used as a method or a medium in arts practice? How can we reproduce the slow pace of walking into our work-* we began travelling south back home, and stopped each time we came across a mountain-like structure, using the perimeter as our walking track. We circled bonfires, mounds, piles and hills, revisiting our starting point of walking amongst mountains, albeit in many different scenarios.

Starting from opposite sides of each structure, we walked for as long as it took to catch up, and upon losing sight of one another, as Alica faced East and Lizzy faced West, the process of walking together whilst remaining separate and out of sight, seemed a fitting metaphor for the collaboration itself.

The external matter – be it dirt, lime, or bonfire fuel, facilitated the internal process we had been hoping to engage with on our walking residency, and extends throughout each work presented in *Circling*.

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Trying to locate the centre-point using a single gesture turns into an infinite loop of attempts. Similarly, looking for our place in the world by merging into the physical matter around us, opens up the relationship between the internal and external, the physical and the non-physical - just as walking around a mountain might...

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## **List of Work**

### ***Finding the centre***

Digital video  
10 seconds

### ***Rocky Mountain***

Hand-made rocks  
(38 hands)

### ***Walking (Lime Pile)***

Digital video  
10.53

### ***Inside outdoors***

Digital print  
21cm x 29cm

### ***Transfer***

Digital video  
4.10

## **Thank you, thank you**

The reliance on others throughout what became a sort of pilgrimage, continued well after our return, as our idea of building a mountain only became a reality with the help of many people. Thanks, thanks, thanks.

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Sarah Davis  
Norina Dixon  
Roland Fraval  
Ria Green  
Halim Moore  
Mifumi Obata  
Shae Rooke  
Marie Salmon  
Katherine Sampson  
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