

SPACE B

GIVE AND TAKE

RIA GREEN, LYDIA HEATH (UK), MIA MALA MCDONALD, LIZZY SAMPSON

Give and Take began as a project by Lizzy Sampson and Ria Green, through a shared interest in objects and processes used in gift economies and pre-currency exchange. Mia Mala McDonald and Lydia Heath (UK) were invited to join the project, and as a group, the four artists responded by each proposing a project or process relating to aspects of exchange and trade.

Through a structured process of dialogue and negotiation, the work exhibited in *Give and Take* talks as much about contemporary values of intention and promise as it does look to a specific local historical exchange (albeit, contested).

Mia Mala McDonald proposed an exploration of John Batman's highly contentious 1835 land treaty, which he claimed to have negotiated with the Wurundjeri of the Kulin nation alliance. The Batman Treaty saw the transaction of 600,000 acres of Victorian land in exchange for various items. McDonald requested each artist represent specific items mentioned in the treaty document. The collective representation of these items come together in the gallery - each artist treating the objects allocated by McDonald according to their own understanding of the treaty through this project.

Lydia Heath proposed the dedication of one hour every day to doing something previously dismissed as not having time for. For Heath, this manifested as an attempt to learn the drums. While there is no documentation of the time spent on these activities, the declaration and constant ticking of a metronome in Heath's work *Keep(in) Time* reminds viewers of the familiarity of intent, and our relationship to time as a valuable currency.

Ria Green's project was inspired by the process of giving and receiving gifts as a form of currency. Informed by research into the Kula Ring's gift economy, her project asked artists to make gifts from material of personal value for the other participating artists.

List of Works

Batman Treaty Objects

Shirts & Tomahawks

Single channel video (1.11)
(Lydia Heath)

Knives (100)

Found wood

Flour

Flour, flour packaging, wire, paint
(Lizzy Sampson)

Blankets

Digital print (1/5), Rag Photographique paper
70cm x 70cm, \$380+GST

Handkerchiefs

Digital print (1/5), Rag Photographique paper
70cm x 70cm, \$380+GST
(Mia Mala McDonald)

Scissors

Scissors, gold leaf

Mirrors

Digital print, Rag paper
64cm x 45cm
(Ria Green)

My Word

(Gift for three others, 1 of 3)

Fabric, cotton
Lizzy Sampson

Keep(in) Time

Vinyl, metronome, stool
Lydia Heath

