



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
CULTURAL MATERIAL INC.

The Shock of the New: Modern Materials, Media and Methods Joint Objects and Electron SIG Symposium February 8 to 10 2017 - Melbourne Museum

Abstract

Title:

A measure of happiness

Name of Presenter:

Amanda Pagliarino [Stuart Fuller to present in Amanda's absence]

Affiliations:

Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)

Abstract:

When the finches are released by artist Celeste Boursier-Mougenot, *from here to ear* (v. 13) begins to exist. It is a joyous sight to behold – the frenzied, excited flight to inspect the nests, visit the feeding stations, view the new habitat, all to a carefully engineered but randomly chaotic soundscape. Boursier-Mougenot uses the french term *dispositif* to describe the artwork which loosely translates to ‘device’. At its most elemental the artwork is an auditory experience. The finches are musicians, they pluck the strings of harpsichord instruments, but Boursier-Mougenot is the composer creating the carefully designed sound experience through strict tuning and audio engineering.

Without the finches the artwork ceases to exist. Their participation is an essential part of the artistic endeavour and their health and wellbeing are crucial to the experience of the artwork. This paper will discuss the importance of third-party relationships in the realisation of this installation and the subsequent acquisition into the QAGOMA collection, and will investigate the ethics of incorporating living animals into artistic practice.

Brief Biography of the Author:

Amanda Pagliarino is Head of Conservation & Registration at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Visual Art) from the Queensland University of Technology, a Bachelor of Applied Science (Conservation of Cultural Material) from the University of Canberra. In 2005 Amanda received the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) Conservator of the Year award.

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