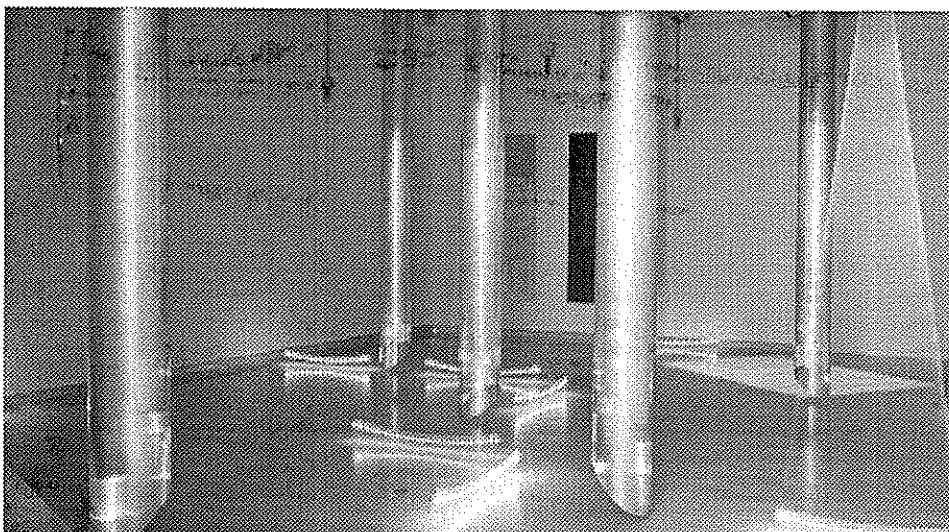# INFORMATION SHEET

Installation view

9 October to 21 November

Joe Felber
Lucy Guerin
Elliott Gyger

25 Songs on 25 Lines of Words on Art Statement for Seven Voices and Dance

'25 Songs' is a collaborative project involving Melbourne-based Swiss artist Joe Felber working with Melbourne dancer and choreographer Lucy Guerin and Sydney composer Elliott Gyger.

The starting point is Ad Reinhardt's *Black Paintings*, the undifferentiated monochromes from the 50s, alongside which Reinhardt made his infamous statements about the definition of his art. 'Art is art. Everything else is everything else' he said, concluding with statement 25, 'the most universal path to the most unique'.

Felber, Gyger and Guerin each respond in their own way to Reinhardt's work in relation to various media; visual art, music and dance. Gyger sets Reinhardt's statements to music for seven voices. Recordings of each of the seven parts are replayed through huge stainless steel pipes suspended from the gallery ceiling. At either end, Felber's concrete poetry and graphics are projected onto the floor, extrapolating from the Reinhardt directives to plastic form and arrangements.
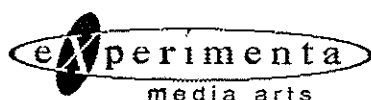
Guerin likes statement number 24 best: 'the completest control for the purest spontaneity'. The video projection of her uncompromising physical dance is proof of her interest. Guerin's two live performances (Friday 8 October 7pm and Saturday 9 October 1pm) directly engage the various elements of the gallery installation.

An exciting addition to the project will be a film documenting a further cross cultural collaboration with the Arts Frisson Dance Company of Singapore which occurred while the exhibition was showing at the Singapore Art Museum in August/September this year.

Together the various artists build a faceted, complex picture of the core themes in Reinhardt's work – 'negation', 'nothingness' and 'transcendence' – as they apply to all the arts and as they operate even across cultural divides.

The exhibition will be opened by Werner Ballmer, Consul-General of Switzerland at 6pm Friday 8 October. A short talk on Ad Reinhardt by performance artist and RMIT lecturer David Cross will follow.

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