



Performing Lines WA

media release

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DO THE TANK MAN TANGO

PVI COLLECTIVE JOIN GLOBAL PROJECT WITH SYDNEY ARTIST TO COMMEMORATE TIANANMEN SQUARE PROTESTS

Perth tactical arts group *pvi collective* have a reputation for engaging the community through public intervention performances and this one is no different.

Raising their hands to co-ordinate the Perth memorial performance of *Tank Man Tango*, they will lead a re-enactment of the Tiananmen Square protests as part of a global public performance marking the tragedy's 20th anniversary.

Devised by Sydney based artist Deborah Kelly, the world wide public art event *Tank Man Tango* aims to teach, rehearse and exercise the exact steps undertaken by the iconic "tank man", who on 5th June 1989, stood alone facing the army tanks on Tiananmen Square.

"...carrying two shopping bags in his hands, trying to communicate, to correspond, to dodge and weave, to ...dance... with the tanks. Tank Man Tango will be a momentary monument to the Tiananmen Square protestors, a memorial made of dancing bodies in cities around the world. An echo across time and space, multiplied against forgetting; an image, a public participatory performance; an enduring online artifact." Deborah Kelly, Artist

pvi collective, a company with a long standing interest in investigating issues of privacy, surveillance and their impact on social codes of behaviour in the public realm, are orchestrating the Perth public event alongside CIA studio resident artists Hydra Poesis. The collective will lead a 'how-to' demonstration of the "tank man's" steps at CIA studios on 3rd June, followed by a public performance on 4th June. All members of the public are invited to participate and no experience is necessary.

"It is an honour to be a part of such a meaningful and powerful memorial. Even 20 years on, the impact of the tank man footage still resonates and for us it poetically highlights the power of the individual against impossible odds." pvi collective

Performances of *Tank Man Tango* from around the world will be documented and the material exhibited at Serial Space in Sydney from 5th June 2009 as part of the 649 exhibition curated by Mark Gerada.

To join the Perth Tank Man Tango project, please register your attendance at the rehearsal and performance by emailing steve@pvicollective.com or calling 9228 4440.

Rehearsal: Wednesday 3 June, 7pm @ CIA Studios, Westone (approximately 1 hour)
480 Newcastle Street, West Perth [entrance via rear of building]

Public Event: Thursday 4 June, 5pm location TBA at the rehearsal

For more information on the Tank Man Tango project visit <http://www.forget2forget.net>

**On 4 June, forget to forget.
Do the Tank Man Tango.**



Image copyright: pvi collective

For all Perth media enquiries, interviews and photo opportunities please contact:

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About pvi collective

Steve Bull, Kelli McCluskey, Ofa Fotu,
Associates: Chris Williams, James McCluskey, Jackson Castiglione, Jason Sweeney, Dr Christina Lee
www.pvicollective.com

During their ten year history, pvi's eclectic cross-artform practice has seen the creation of live artworks, street interventions, radio broadcasts, privacy services, dvd rentals, bus tours and sculptural installations. Their artworks have sought to question various forms of social control that we live under in an increasingly anxious cultural climate, often offering up darkly humorous survival tactics for living in a panoptic 21st century.

About Hydra Poesis

Sam Fox, Aimee Smith, Tomas Ford
www.hydrapoesis.net

Founded in 2005 by Sam Fox, a Perth based director and choreographer working across hybrid theatre and dance within contemporary art and community based contexts. The company seeks to employ hybrid performance forms, towards the poetic realisation of new critical thoughts and cultural actions, aiming to make 'screaming, desperate performance' that blatantly rejects the popular.

About Performing Lines WA

www.performinglineswa.org.au

Performing Lines WA produces the work of pvi collective and other selected West Australian independent dance and theatre artists through the Managing and Producing Services (MAPS) initiative of the Australia Council and the Department of Culture and the Arts. Performing Lines WA supports the production and touring of new West Australian work nationally and internationally, and provides a range of services from financial management to marketing and audience development.

pvi collective is supported by Managing and Producing Services (MAPS) which is an initiative of the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts.

