

IMPERIAL SLACKS

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**RE: CHIASMA
Web Transmission**

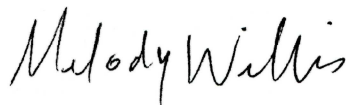
Imperial Slacks (Sydney, Australia) is pleased to be involved in Chiasma, a collaborative project with Folly (Lancaster, UK) and Grunt (Vancouver, Canada).

Our brief as a collective and gallery has been to provide space (real and virtual) for artists to exhibit and collaborate. We have fostered this through associations with other organisations and galleries within Australia and are enthused at the possibility of expanding this to involve international organisations through the Chiasma project.

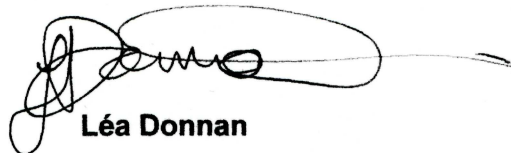
As nominated artist for the Sydney transmission, Léa Donnan is an interdisciplinary practitioner working with performance, installation and video. Her performance work skims from a universal 'lost' consciousness of fragmented information. Donnan examines points of intersection in the human experience through time. The structures of idolatry and practices of worship or entrancement are borrowed as a means of using common human experience as a link to the past.

Attached is a brief introduction to the Imperial Slacks collective detailing some of the collaborative projects that have been developed.

Warm Regards,



Melody Willis
for Imperial Slacks



Léa Donnan
Imperial Slacks Nominated Artist

AN INTRODUCTION TO IMPERIAL SLACKS

The Imperial Slacks Collective comprises 15 board members. One member, Laura Jordan, currently resides in Lancaster and has offered to act as a conduit/representative for Imperial Slacks in the UK. She has extensive experience in new media.

As a collective, Imperial Slacks provides artists (young, emerging, mid-career, local, national, international) with an affordable, generously sized project space within the inner city. The site offers a forum for artists to explore experimental projects. During the last twenty months the gallery has diversified from solo and group exhibitions to audio events, a new media conference, workshops and performance projects. The wider space of the Imperial Slacks warehouse consists of artists' residential studios where some of the collective reside. Our initiative has formed a nexus that shares facilities, technical support and inspires an active visual arts community.

Our association with larger Australian organisations such as Artspace, Carnivale, Tess de Quincey Etc, What is Music? Festival, dLux and the College of Fine Arts (UNSW) has provided artists with an intermediary platform linking artist run initiatives with established institutions. We are supported through Australia Council funding which has allowed us to purchase a data projector that assists our multimedia events.

Imperial Slacks has developed several initiatives that have offered new platforms for emerging artists to exhibit their work. Among those was the launch of **Serial 7's**, a video publication that showcases the work of 7 emerging video artists per issue. Serial 7's has become a biannual event on the Imperial Slacks calendar. It aims to provide a regular space for emerging video artists to show work via projection in a gallery context.

In October 2001 Imperial Slacks hosted the **TAZ** (temporary autonomous zone) event in conjunction with dLux media arts as part of the two week "TLT" conference. Free multimedia workshops were led by established artists and theorists who had travelled to Sydney for the conference. These workshops and the open nature of the TAZ space, generated collaborations on a number of politically motivated projects and web-based events. Significantly, the Boat People project led by Deborah Kelly formed an image of a colonial ship with the text Boat People underneath. The image was projected onto the shell of the Opera House and onto a church in inner Sydney.

In 2001, Imperial Slacks hosted a series experimental sound/ new music events titled **impermanent.audio** (<http://laudible.net/impaud/>) curated by Caleb K. Fourteen events were held providing a space for local, interstate and international artists to perform to a dedicated listening audience. Performances were heard from established artists like Francisco López (Spain), Stevie Wishart, Pimmon, Hecker, Scott Horscroft, d.Haines, to first timers: Stasis Duo and emerging sound collective: *Audio Alice*.

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