

8th March - 20th April, 2008
Wollongong City Gallery

"...it's evidence as a separate substance is evidence of it's subjection to stress; and this is felt as the ache of an incomprehensible yearning until it realises that every experience is a relief, an expression of itself; and that it cannot be injured by aught that may befall it..."

Aleister Crowley



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sean o'connell
crash



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open Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm
weekends and public holidays 12 noon - 4pm
closed Mondays, Good Friday, Christmas Day,
Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Wollongong City Gallery is supported by Wollongong City Council and receives assistance from the NSW Government through Arts NSW.





Through clashes of will, the meeting of opposing cultures, the debating of ideas, or in the passionate embrace of our lover, we clash in violent and beautiful ways, revealing hidden aspects of our own nature. Through our interactions with each other and the world, we discover and remould our identities.

Crash explores extreme conditions of interaction between two people through abstract form and movement. The work explores this interaction through the collision of welded steel and copper boxes, their forms and inner structures revealed through the nature of their impact upon each other. Through folds that give way under pressure and sharp corners that force themselves in, a record of their meeting remains imprinted in the space left between them.

The work was inspired during a 3-month residency in Tokyo supported through the Australia Council for the Arts. Within the extremes of Japanese culture, and through the experience of being irreconcilably foreign, this harsh metaphor for our relations with the world was conceived.

The exhibition consists of video captured with a high-speed film camera, accompanied by stretched sound recordings, showing the collisions unfolding as fluid organic performances. Accompanying the video in the gallery space are several hung pairs of the collided boxes, spot-lit to highlight the spaces between them. A documentary video of construction processes plays on a small screen to the side, showing the large machine made to launch the boxes toward each other through space.

Many thanks to Vernon Bowden as a technical and mental lifeboat, to Vivian Vidulich for her encouragement, to my Grandmother for putting up with all my chaos, and to Rowena Foong for her bottomless support and clarity.

