

## Intimate Transactions Transmute Collective

Keith Armstrong (Artistic Director)  
Lisa O'Neill  
Guy Webster

*Intimate Transactions is an interactive exhibition in which visitors can communicate through virtual space with a person in another city, or another state, or another country.*

Opening simultaneously at the Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, & Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

**Opening** 6pm Thursday 28 August 2008

**Dates** 29 August – 19 September

**Hours** 12-3pm Tues-Fri and 2-5pm Sat 13th September

**Bookings Essential.** Call the EAF on 82117505

**Gallery Talk** 3pm Friday 29 August



*The person you want to interact with is in another location. You can only communicate using your body. You and your partner have the same new technology at your disposal – 'smart furniture' (called the Bodysheff) that is embedded with an array of sensors that detect your movements and reflect them as two moving shapes on large screens. Everything you do influences an evolving 'world' created from digital imagery, multi-channel sound and tactile feedback. You are both part of a new and beautiful virtual space; a delicate digital ecology.*

This is not a scene from a sci-fi film. This is *Intimate Transactions*, a new form of networked multimedia installation that allows two people in geographically separate spaces to interact simultaneously using only their bodies. With the support of Museum and Gallery Services Queensland this exciting new media exhibition is touring to partnered venues throughout Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia opening simultaneously at the Experimental Art Foundation and Wagga Wagga City Gallery 6pm Thursday 28 August.

The exhibition evolved from experiments by Dr Keith Armstrong, Lisa O'Neill and Guy Webster, an interdisciplinary team of artists and researchers who form the 'Transmute Collective' based in Brisbane.

Dr Keith Armstrong explained 'The project questions how principles of ecological science and philosophy might lead to the evolution of new forms of process, practice and outcome in the media arts. We aimed to create an interactive artwork that provides a metaphor for the effects of our actions on an environment. We live under the enduring threat of a global crisis, which is actually caused by our irrational self-destructive actions. This suggests a problem with how we perceive ourselves in the world. We wanted to show how our actions and our self-image are connected.'

Formed in 1998, the 'Transmute Collective' has developed a range of ambitious, large-scale new media projects that have been shown nationally and internationally. *Intimate Transactions* has recently been exhibited in Austria, England, Greece and the US, and has won a prestigious honorary mention in the (2005) Prix Ars Electronica. Earlier this year, the work travelled to Beijing, China, to represent Australia at the Olympic Arts Festival, prior to commencing an eight venue tour of regional Australia. The tour of *Intimate Transactions* is supported by [www.geoproject.org](http://www.geoproject.org), providing educational and interactive material designed to augment four exhibitions that address the broad theme of art and the environment.

Dr Keith Armstrong said 'We are very excited that, through the support of a Visions of Australia grant from the Australian Government, *Intimate Transactions* can be enjoyed by so many new audiences across Australia, who will have the chance to experience our unique and thought-provoking work.'

**Intimate transactions website** [www.intimatetransactions.com](http://www.intimatetransactions.com)

**Check eafweb for more details and session times update** [eaf.asn.au/2008/armstrong.html](http://eaf.asn.au/2008/armstrong.html)

**For local interviews and exhibition related media enquiries please contact the eaf** [info@eaf.asn.au](mailto:info@eaf.asn.au)

**For tour enquiries please contact Fiona Marshall**, Museum & Gallery Services, Queensland. Email: [fiona.marshall@amgsq.com.au](mailto:fiona.marshall@amgsq.com.au). Phone: 07 3215 0826

## EXPERIMENTAL ART FOUNDATION

Lion Arts Centre North Tce [West End] Adelaide South Australia ◊ Hours 11-5 Tues-Fri. 2-5 Sat ◊ +61-(0)8-82117505 ◊ [www.eaf.asn.au](http://www.eaf.asn.au)

This exhibition is toured by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland and supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.

The EAF is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the South Australian Government through Arts SA. The EAF is also supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. The EAF is a member of Contemporary Arts Organisations of Australia <[www.caos.org.au](http://www.caos.org.au)>

