



## CARLA FELTHAM

Preservation

EXHIBITION DATES 3 - 20 October 2012



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA



**ABOVE**

**Carla Feltham**  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
29 x 39cm

**LEFT**

**Carla Feltham**  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
39 x 29cm

**COVER**

**Carla Feltham**  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
29 x 39cm

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*Preservation: Resonance of the Actual* refers to fundamental questions and explorations regarding the phenomenon of 'on-the-road' photography and the impact of photographers who practice it in their role of depicting society. These central ideas underpin all aspects of my research, studio based and theoretical.

This research comprises three parts. Firstly, the paper presents an investigation into the theme of 'on-the-road' photography, which in turn leads to an analysis of the purpose of photographers' documentation of everyday scenes. I examine both the historical and contemporary situation, looking at how this has challenged traditional ideas of beauty. Through this research I also question the value society places on the uncommissioned photographic archive, and the worth it finds contained within.

Secondly, the paper discusses theories advanced by authors Walter Benjamin, drawing on Charles Baudelaire's concept of the *flâneur* and Roland Barthes' notion of *studium* and *punctum* both in relation to my own work and other photographic artists including Walker Evans, William Eggleston and Alec Soth. I discuss the projects that comprise my MFA practical work.

Lastly, I explore the impact of curator and writer John Szarkowski, as well as photographers Paul Graham, Stephen Shore, Zoe Leonard, Glenn Sloggett and Trent Parke. These artists have been a source of inspiration for much of my work and create a framework against which I can assess my own output and reflect on different elements of my practice.

*Carla Feltham, September 2012*



**ABOVE**

Carla Feltham  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
39 x 29cm

**OPPOSITE TOP**

Carla Feltham  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
29 x 39cm

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM**

Carla Feltham  
from the series *Preservation*  
2012  
colour photograph on silver rag paper  
29 x 39cm

**CARLA  
FELTHAM**

Preservation