



ROBERT ROONEY

The Box Brownie Years 1956—58

Centre for Contemporary Photography

404 George Street
Fitzroy Vic 3065

Gallery Hours
Wednesday—Friday 11am—6pm
Saturday—Sunday 12—5pm

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An exhibition of never-before exhibited black-and-white photographs taken by Robert Rooney with his Box Brownie camera between 1956-58. Created when Rooney was a student at Swinburne Technical College and influenced by Charles Blackman and Ben Shahn, among others, they demonstrate an early fascination with childhood, repetition and seriality—themes that have persisted throughout his long career.

A sense of freedom in the action of the children—playing on suburban streets, in schoolyards and at a suburban quarry and tip—is evident. The youths also play to the camera. There is a sense of complicity, awareness without self-consciousness. The apparent innocence of the now nostalgic scenes, however, is undercut by a melancholy note: this state is transitional. There is also the potential for danger.

These marvellous early photographs will be shown alongside four key paintings from that time, and a recent film *The Quadrangle 1956* (2009) made with these early images.

Curated by Maggie Finch and Patrick Pound with Robert Rooney.

Image:
Robert Rooney *The Quadrangle 1956*
Courtesy the artist, Tolarno Galleries,
Melbourne and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney.

Exhibition Opening
Thursday 28 March 2013

Exhibition Dates
Wednesday 3 April—Sunday 19 May 2013

Also exhibiting at this time

Jo Scicluna
Steve Carr
Greatest Hits
Lou Hubbard
Taree Mackenzie
Justene Williams
Lydia Wagner

Contact

For further information, interviews or high resolution images please contact:

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