

CATHARINE HODSON,
ANTOINETTE WOOD, ET AL. | 4.00AM TONDO RONDO

26 Jan - 5 Mar 2011



Liz Rowe has constructed a wall of soap for her project *Never Too Careful*. Positioned to obstruct the usual path trodden through the gallery, Rowe aims to challenge our perceptions of place and space and especially territorialised notions of identity, belonging and security. Her barrier of soap and cleanliness evokes post 9/11 border security paranoia and immigration policies grounded in the xenophobic fear of being overwhelmed by torrents of 'the great unwashed masses'. Using the iconically kiwi brand of Sunlight soap Rowe brings this message home. Visually similar to residential building bricks, she shows these ideas operating in the suburban obsession with domestic cleanliness and tacit homogeneity. Sounds of people moving around on the other side of the wall echo out, leaving viewer to wonder whether they are on the right side or the wrong side, whether they are on the inside or the outside and whether the other side is perhaps a better place to be. Max Bellamy has co-opted the seductive vernacular, decadence and high production values found in advertising for his photographic series *99 Ways to Solve Global Warming*. He uses this style to introduce an ambivalent questioning of posited market-driven solutions to climate change. His large, lush and detailed photographs draw attention to the inherent social factors at work with this issue that is often described in scientific terms. The play between each image resists a straight narrative reading and denies any kind of dogmatic assertion about which is the 'best' way forward. Bellamy has instead formed images of problems bearing potential solutions and solutions wound up in problems. Using old and slow photographic technology Bellamy, through his very methodology and approach, advocates slowing down and taking time to look at every detail and exploring old and forgotten processes for new potential.