

APPEASE THE SUN

Margaret Roberts

These artist's pages are experiments with photographically documenting artwork* that seeks to be continuous with the place in which it is located. They document *Appease the Sun*, an artwork made in the SNO (Sydney Non Objective) exhibition space in Marrickville in May 2007. The work was a high table-like structure in the same proportions as the room in which it was built. It was also the same height as the window ledge and faced out onto rooftops and the sky, with its planes, birds and sunshine. The table had a dry, hand-marked yellow pigment surface, and it was located so that people could walk around it. Even though the rationale for SNO is Non-Objective Art, the table did represent something – the sun – in the sense that it was yellow, it was very big and dominated the space, people could circle it and rub their hands in its yellow pigment. It also had another role in the physical place in which it was located, which was evident in the active physical participation it incited, initially by children who claimed the space underneath as theirs on the opening night.

Later we discovered that the work encouraged physical exercises and made some sense of them by converting them into arm signals made across its yellow surface and towards the sun. These have a role in the documentation for their potential to represent the life of the place in which the work was located. While the literal place is inevitably absent from the photographic record that remains after the work has gone, the photographs record that dual role by showing some of these arm signals with part of the yellow surface. Together, they are evidence that the place was as much a component of the work as was the yellow structure.

* Acknowledgement and thanks to SNO CAP (Sydney Non Objective Contemporary Art Projects) and performers Beata Geyer, Billy Gruner and Margaret Roberts.

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