

# JUSTINE KHAMARA

## now I am a radiant people



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21 JUNE - 16 JULY

In reproducing thousands of photographs of a single subject across seven free-standing spheres, Justine Khamara has wittingly represented the thousands of photographs taken everyday through the currency of instant communication. As the viewer circumnavigates the overlapping cut-and-paste skin-like tiles, this endless collection of exceedingly similar information explores the metaphorical hunger for contemporary society's voracious appetite for accumulating images.

The repetitious slicing of her brother's photographic skin forms a tightly-cropped portrait that is controlled by the artist. As the viewer encompasses the spherical objects, the photographic angles move from the rear of the head, to a side profile, to the front of the face creating an illusion of a continuous wave of full disclosure. The result is that the work becomes an excess of image-making which mirrors the technical advances in photo-technology that is whetting the appetite of more and more people to document and share personal information. These sentimental assemblages examine the act of digital copy as a mode of embalming and preserving ourselves and our loved ones forever.

As a collection of photographs, the work disrupts a picture's smooth two-dimensional surface. By collaging multiple shots of a single subject into three-dimensional form, it falls outside the conventional work on paper that we have come to expect from photography and is typical of Khamara's oeuvre of challenging our preconception of photography as a two dimensional object. now I am a radiant people continues Justine's playful, obsessive engagement with optical illusionism and perfect form.

Justine Khamara lives and works in Melbourne, Australia. In 2003 she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from the Victorian College of the Arts. Group exhibitions include Present Tense: An imagined grammar of portraiture in the digital age, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra (2010); New 09, ACCA Melbourne (2009); Primavera 07, MCA Sydney (2007); Six Orbits Around the Blue Moon, Ramp Gallery Masey University, Hamilton, NZ (2005). Solo exhibitions include Erysichthon's Ball, Centre for Contemporary Photography (2010); How Excellently We Did-diddly-do-do Do It, Heide Museum of Modern Art (2007); Legion, tcb art inc., Melbourne (2005); Bugaboo!, tcb art inc, Melbourne (2004); Eye Spy... Linden St.Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne (2003).

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