



**CRAZED**

**AND**

**DEFUSED**

**3-5 March 2008**

The Narrows  
2/141 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne AUS

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# CRAZED AND DEFUSED

**TN:** I have a very strong memory of black flags at S11. I mean the S11 of 2000, not 2001, when the World Economic Forum was held at Crown Casino and an alliance of different anti-capitalist groups staged a blockade of the many entrances to the casino. There were a lot of anarchists there for that event. But also the organisation of the event was very indebted to anarchist principles. It was non-centralised, and organised through a spokescouncil, which, like the spokes on a bicycle, was a way for autonomous groups to communicate with one another. At that time it struck me that the black flag of anarchism had retained its force and vitality in a way that, say, the trade union banner had not.

**BH:** Certainly, the eclecticism of the crowd remains foremost in my own memories of S11 2000. A remarkable—indeed, paradoxical—diversity of groups was represented, so it is fitting that anarchist principles would have informed the organisation of that event. The foci and audiences of trade unions are, by necessity, increasingly specific. In contrast, there is an implicit openness to anarchism, a certain non-specificity which grants it a quality of adaptability. It is perhaps for this reason that its flag retains a symbolic vitality. Indeed, the black flag is a most apt symbol in this respect; it is a poignant balance between form and formlessness. I think this is why it fascinates me.

Excerpt from an exchange between Tom Nicholson and Brad Haylock, February 2008

**Crazed and Defused** is presented as a part of the 2008 L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program

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Brad Haylock

**Opening**                      **Hours**  
Monday 3 March, 6pm      Mon–Wed, 12–6pm