

Cover your left eye + look at the big spot all the time, lower your head + see the small spot disappear
Continue to lower your head + see it reappear + the large spot disappear



Cover your left eye + look at the big flower spot all the time, lower your head to the page + see the small spot disappear continue to lower your head + see it reappear + the large spot disappear

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OPEN WED-SAT 12-6PM

MISSING
NEW WORK BY
HAMISH CARR
20.4.07 - 12.5.07

OPENING
FRIDAY APRIL 20
6-8PM

According to official sources about 30,000 people are reported missing each year. However, most of those reported missing are located, usually within hours.¹ There are then those who remain missing for months, years, lifetimes, forever...

They become part of the missing persons' database, lying dormant and somewhat forgotten by the public until the photos are again aired or publicized in yet another attempt to track them down. These images bring back a time and a place long since past, but still vivid in the minds of those hopeful that they will one day be returned. The images of missing persons are intriguing for a number of reasons: they are echoes of the past; they remain unchanged while the world moves forward and people struggle to get on with their lives; they become mementos of happier times, as well as reminders of happy times lost.

This is the nature of missing persons and the images which represent them.

These works are directly derived from missing person files and combine text and portraiture to deliver authentic, yet counterfeit, imagery. In many ways it is the fluidity of memory – real, imagined, constructed – that is pursued here in relation to missing persons. In the popular collective memory, these people can be quickly forgotten, but for those directly affected the image remains firm, along with the recollections of times now gone, or for some missed...

"The aesthetic process chimes with the conflicted sense of temporality by combining images produced at different rates of time: in one part of a work one might find a labour-intensive, traditionally rendered image, while another section is executed in haste and on impulse."²

The exhibition portrays notions associated with that of missing persons – in many ways revealing the paradox inherent in the nature of persons sorely missed – the everlasting-memory mixed with the forgetful-mind.

Ashley Carr 2007

¹ Source AFP 2007

² Jane O'Neill, correspondence, 2006

missing