Travelling Head

Richard Boulez

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Travelling Head

Abstract
Throughout 1981 visiting North American performance artist Richard Boulez offered his head as an exhibition space to a selected number of Sydney artists. The artists were invited to do a work attached to Boulez’s head on dates that coincided with exhibition openings at The Watters Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney. Mr Boulez would visit the artist’s studio or work place prior to the opening. After the artist had completed the work Mr Boulez and the artist concerned would travel by public transport to the particular opening at The Watters Gallery, then onto a coffee shop, restaurant or theatre before Mr Boulez would retire and the exhibit end.

Artists who took part in the Travelling Head Exhibit with Richard Boulez were in order:
• Silvia Jansons
• Malcom King
• Tony Twigg
• Robyn Gordon
• Jon Cockburn
• Judith Blackall
• Joan Brassil
• Joan Grounds
• Janet Laurence
• Tim Harris
• Heather Dorrough
• Trevor Weekes

Keywords
head, travelling

Disciplines
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R. Boulez and J. P. Cockburn, Travelling Head Exhibition, The Watters Gallery and environs, Sydney, 9 September 1981.

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INFORMATION SHEET ON ‘RICHARD BOULEZ: TRAVELLING HEAD’ A PERFORMANCE EVENT UNDERTAKEN BY JON COCKBURN AND RICHARD BOULEZ IN 1981

Throughout 1981 visiting North American performance artist Richard Boulez offered his head as an exhibition space to a selected number of Sydney artists. The artists were invited to do a work attached to Boulez’s head on dates that coincided with exhibition openings at The Watters Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney. Mr Boulez would visit the artist’s studio or work place prior to the opening. After the artist had completed the work Mr Boulez and the artist concerned would travel by public transport to the particular opening at The Watters Gallery, then onto a coffee shop, restaurant or theatre before Mr Boulez would retire and the exhibit end.

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The following images are of Jon Cockburn’s work for the ‘Richard Boulez: Travelling Head’, 09 September 1981.

Jon Cockburn and Richard Boulez: Richard Boulez surveys the first spike attached while preparing ‘Travelling Head Exhibition’, The Watters Gallery, 09 September 1981, stoneware clay and ferro stains on living skin with stoneware ceramic spikes attached (spikes stood 35mm in height), Sydney.

Jon Cockburn and Richard Boulez, Jon Cockburn working on Richard Boulez’s head while preparing ‘Travelling Head Exhibition’, The Watters Gallery, 09 September 1981, stoneware clay and ferro stains on living skin with stoneware ceramic spikes attached (spikes stood 35mm in height), Sydney.
Cockburn/Boulez – Travelling Head 1981

Photograph taken by Jon Cockburn in the studio immediately after completing work on Richard Boulez’s head: ‘Travelling Head Exhibition’, The Watters Gallery, 09 September 1981, stoneware clay and ferro stains on living skin with stoneware ceramic spikes attached (spikes stood 35mm in height), Sydney.

Jon Cockburn and Richard Boulez, ‘Travelling Head Exhibition’, The Watters Gallery, 09 September 1981, stoneware clay and ferro stains on living skin with stoneware ceramic spikes attached (spikes stood 35mm in height), Sydney. Photograph Jan Reade