

# LOOP

new Australian video art

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A NETS VICTORIA TOURING EXHIBITION  
DEVELOPED BY HAMILTON ART GALLERY  
.....



DANIEL McOWAN  
CURATOR  
.....



**Shaun GLADWELL**

*Storm Sequence*

2000

still from DVD

videography: Técha Noble

sound: Kazumichi Grime

commissioned by Peter Fay

Courtesy the artist and Sherman Galleries (Sydney)

DANIEL McOWAN TALKS  
TO NETS VICTORIA  
ABOUT CURATING THE  
TOURING EXHIBITION  
**LOOP: NEW AUSTRALIAN  
VIDEO ART**

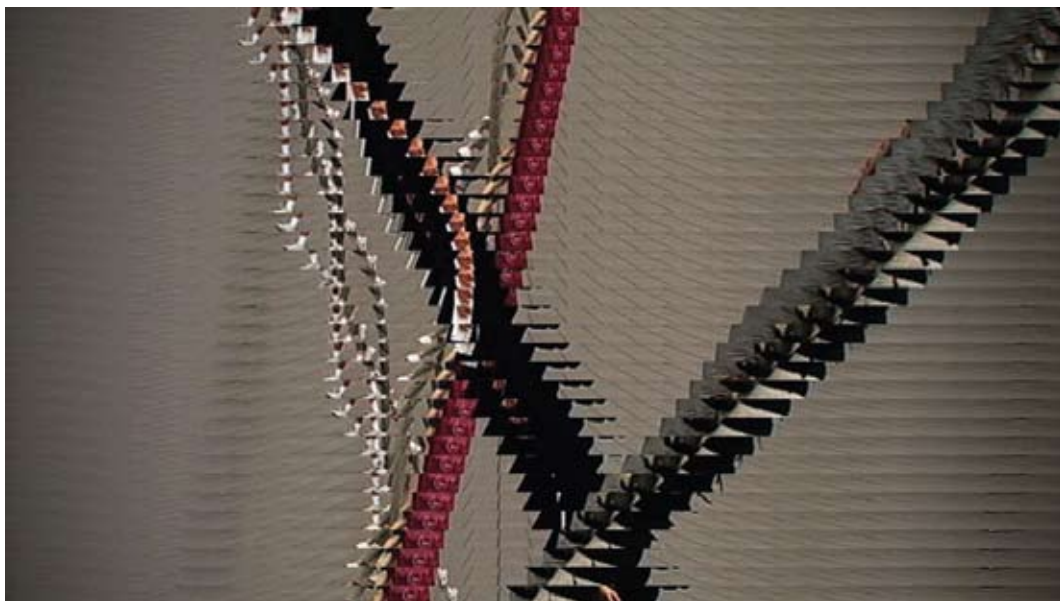
**What is the difference between video art and media art?**

For someone not deeply involved in any aspect of media art I always saw video art as part of the media arts family. Both video art and media art have undergone immense transitions in recent years and video art has a long heritage that allows it to sit in its own dimension slightly apart from what is seen as media art that in many forms has yet to define itself either artistically or technically, for example media arts includes art for telephone screens – an area that has yet to clock up many runs artistically but is also evolving as the screens on phones swiftly evolve.

***Loop* presents meditations on space, time, urbanisation and history through contrasting video art techniques such as time manipulation, editing and image extension. How did you develop the concept or curatorial rationale of *Loop*?**

The curatorial rationale emerged out of the investigation of what was happening in video art around the country. It swiftly became apparent that different aesthetic approaches and different technological approaches were both being used and it seemed appropriate to cover variations on both of these in an attempt to present some sort of picture of contemporary video art.





**Daniel CROOKS**

*Static No.9 (a small section of something larger)*

2005

still from DVD

Hamilton Art Gallery Collection

Courtesy the artist and

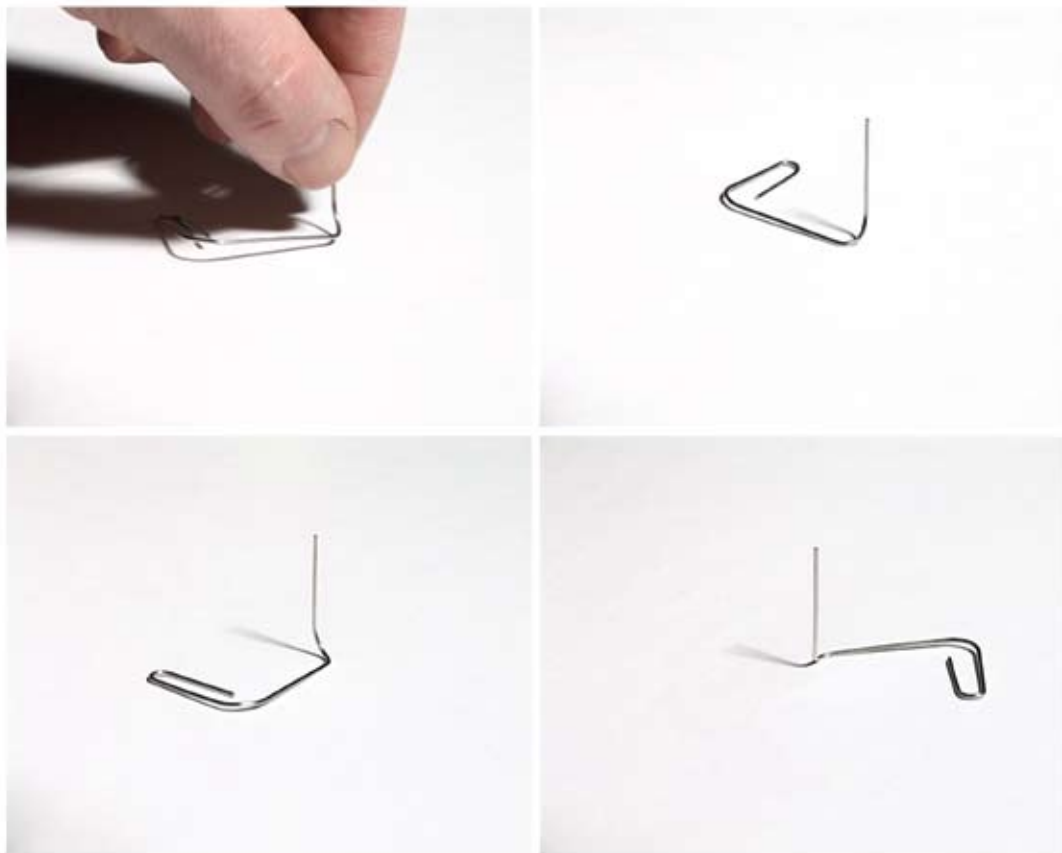
Sherman Galleries (Sydney)

**What compelled you to initiate a video art exhibition that would tour western Victoria, given Hamilton Art Gallery's outstanding collection of fine and decorative arts?**

I decided to initiate the exhibition because it seemed a comparatively simple undertaking at the time (yes, and have I learned a few things!). I had been hoping to get a travelling media arts exhibition from external sources and nothing had eventuated so the response was 'why not do it myself?'. It is well known that youth audiences find this sort of exhibition appealing and we were also asked to address technology and art in our DEET funded Education Officer programs. We had not had any exhibitions that addressed youth other than an annual TOPS exhibition so it fulfilled that requirement as well as fulfilling DEET's requirement. Our programming in Hamilton is consciously broad based – we try to serve the whole community by representing a wide range of media and periods in our exhibitions program so that over a period we hopefully provide something of interest for all sectors in our community.

The rationale of touring the show was simply that we all needed to fulfill these conditions – addressing youth and meeting DEET requirements - and if I had a packaged exhibition then why not transmit it further. The initial group of exhibitors were all an hour or so from Hamilton and so that they could be rapidly accessed if the technology provided operational problems.





**Daniel VON STURMER**

*Screen Test #4*

2004

from the series *Screen Test #1-4*

still from DVD

RHS Abbot Bequest Fund 2006

Bendigo Art Gallery Collection

Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery (Melbourne)



**Jess MACNEIL**

*Opera House Steps March*

2006

still from DVD

Hamilton Art Gallery Collection

Courtesy the artist and Gallery Barry Keldoulis (Sydney)



**Arlo MOUNTFORD**

*The Wanderer Meets the Pioneer*

2006

still from DVD

Heide Museum of Modern Art Collection

Courtesy the artist

**How did you go about choosing the artists and works for this exhibition?**

The artists were chosen so that different aesthetic approaches and different technological approaches were represented.

**What excites you most about video art and the works in *Loop*?**

The creativity and the intelligent use of an available technology in making art. New technologies always precipitate new expressions. Video seemed to have come of age in this group of younger artists for whom the technology itself was not the novelty (as it seemed it was for say Bill Viola or Naim June Paik) but its use provided new avenues for creative and aesthetic expression.

**Arlo Mountford's *The Wanderer Meets the Pioneer* (2006) is the only animated moving image work in the exhibition.**

**Why was it important to include it in *Loop* and how does it represent new directions in video animation in Australia?**

Arlo's work was chosen because of its obvious connection between animation and art – but also because he makes it look simple and for youth this makes it seem accessible. I am sure its harder than it looks but this video seemed to present an intellectual entry point that was without challenge.

**What do you hope visitors will take away with them after viewing *Loop*?**

I hope visitors will take away a sense of excitement, a sense that art has many dimensions and that it is an evolving thing not limited to canvas, paper or bronze, let alone the decorative arts mediums. I also hope the audience sees a sense of beauty in these works and a sense of wonder of what man achieves with the material world around him.

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**DANIEL MCOWAN** is the Director of Hamilton Art Gallery, the Deputy Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, and Curator of *Loop: new Australian video art*.



# NETS VICTORIA

## National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria

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NETS Victoria is the peak body for visual arts touring in the state of Victoria. We provide opportunities for regional Victorians to access and engage with the best contemporary art, craft and design.

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Program Manager

Jane Barlow

Program Manager

Emily Jones (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Communications Manager

Melissa Hart

## TOURING PARTNERS



ARTS  
VICTORIA



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## EDUCATION PARTNERS



National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund, by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments

## [www.netsvictoria.org/loop](http://www.netsvictoria.org/loop)

A comprehensive online resource featuring background information, education resources, interviews and tour updates