

## Research Statement: Bell, Catherine

### Special Delivery (2005)

#### 1. Research Background

This work explicates the way ceremony and ritual is used in secular affairs and investigates the structure of performance as an interpretation of social reality. Here the Fluxus artists use of food in public performances helps explain how direct relationships between art and life address questions of ritual development in a secular context.

#### 2. Research Contribution

The artwork I produce concentrates on the function of food and its ability to reiterate and reinforce traditional social ties, express social conflicts and delineate gender roles.

#### 3. Research Significance

To understand how my work compared to the lineage of avant-garde food happenings I curated the group exhibition *The Raw and the Cooked 2005*. This show positioned my work alongside other Melbourne artists working with food as a material.

This show was reviewed in the reputable art journal, *un Magazine*, and in the *Age*. This art work was also the subject of two academic essays that appear in *Eyeline Magazine* and *n.paradoxa: International Feminist art journal*.

I presented a research paper *The Edible Complex: Cooking up crimes and maternal misdemeanours*, at an International Symposium called *Creative Practice/Creative Research Materiality, Process, Performativity*, York St John University, UK April, 15-17 (Panel Topic: 'Unruly Objects: Materiality / Process / Performativity').

The work will be the subject of a chapter in a book called *The Maternal Body in Visual Culture*, published by Manchester University Press, authored by renowned art theorist by Dr Rosemary Betterton.