I MEET THIS CORNER AS A PARADIGM OF CHANGE

THE NEW JULIAN WILLIAMS MOVEMENT PLAY
WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE HI GOD PEOPLE "CLAK CLAK"

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2 - 5PM

Julian Williams presents his new psychogeographic musical; a letter to inner-northern
Melbourne streets and his relationship to them on an instinctive and emotional level. Williams will perform a series of movement improvisations and stories at SLOPES followed by the Hi God People performing CLAK CLAK, a new old idea.

Image: Julian Williams, *I meet this corner as a paradigm of change*, 2013.
Utopian Slumps Opens Slopes - A New Gallery on Smith Street

By Max Oljnyk, 26th November 2013

A brand new artist-run space opens in Collingwood, helmed by Utopian Slumps’ Melissa Loughnan, with a cracker of a group show.

A ristine-run spaces are the lifeblood of Melbourne’s creative community. They’re where emerging artists show their work for the first time, where they establish lasting connections with fellow artists and collectors – and drink some free beer. However, thanks to rising rents and lack of government funding, the logistics of running an ARI has seen their number diminishing over the past few years. Enter Slopes.

Housed within the NeoMetro development at 9 Smith Street, the brand new space will operate with free rent for a year. “Initially I thought it was too good to be true, but it turned out that it wasn’t!” says Utopian Slumps founder Melissa Loughnan, who is running the ‘sister’ gallery along with gallery director Brooke Babington and curatorial advisor Helen Hughes.

With the pressure off from making rent payments, the focus at Slopes is on presenting challenging work. “There are lots of spaces and exhibitions that are risk-taking in Melbourne, but perhaps not consistently risk-taking,” says Loughnan. “We’re also encouraging artists to curate, and are ensuring that there is an element of international exchange in every exhibition.”
First cab off the Slopes rank is *The Knock-off Show*, featuring an eclectic bunch of familiar and not-so familiar names presenting their take on artwork from the past, including Jon Campbell, Lou Hubbard, Masato Takenaka and Geoff Newton along with New Zealand's Ella Sutherland and Italian Gabriele de Santis. It looks to be a cracker.

*The Knock-off Show runs from November 28 to December 21.*

**Slopes**
9 Smith St, Fitzroy
slopesprojects.org

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Queenscliff Music Festival
Three big days of Australian music on the coast.

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The Big West Festival
The Big West Festival looks past cheap food, reasonable wine glasses, and fast-decaying music to present a novel, creatively innovative package of Melbourne that's unlike any other part of town.

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New curator-run, not-for-profit gallery, SLOPES at Nine Smith Street, Fitzroy, will open on 28 November 2013, providing a free space for local emerging and established artists to gain visibility.

Putting its passion for design in action, Neometro has provided free space for the venture on land where it is planning a multi-level apartment project.

The gallery will be helmed by Melissa Loughnan, who founded renowned arts hub Utopian Slumps in 2007.

SLOPES will operate a 12-month program of exhibitions and events that will showcase the art world’s most exciting, risk taking and challenging forms of thought and expression. Ms Loughnan has further formed a collaborative partnership with gallery director Brooke Babington and curatorial advisor Helen Hughes.

The gallery’s first monthly exhibition, The Knock-off Show, will feature Australian artists including Mitch Cairns, Jon Campbell, Lou Hubbard, Diene Georgetti, Kez Hughes, Masato Takasaka, John Meade and Geoff Newton. New Zealand’s Ella Sutherland and Italy’s Gabriele de Santis will add an international perspective.

Ms Loughnan said the free space came at a time when Melbourne’s creative community was struggling to find affordable space in which to exhibit.

“The art landscape is changing, with the number of artist-run spaces reducing in recent years. This donation of free space by Neometro gives local artists the chance to be seen alongside international names, redressing an imbalance in the visibility of Australian art in the global arena,” Ms Loughnan said.

Neometro founding director Jeff Provan said a key focus for the business is to support design, art and culture in the communities in which it works.

“Our support of design awareness and culture is rapidly moving beyond the core business of delivering residential architecture projects because we’re passionate about fostering creative expression,” he said.

Ms Babington will engage a number of curators during the year, giving the calendar of events a range of curator-led perspectives and themes.

“We’re looking forward to giving some creative freedom to curators and artists. As we are not-for-profit, we are simply working to give artists location to showcase contemporary art,” Ms Babington said.

The name SLOPES is inspired an industrial concrete slope within the gallery – the perfect contemporary sculptural centerpiece.