



Art Gallery  
of Western Australia

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mediaRelease

## Circle of friends

Artist in focus

**Friendships are never simple. They involve a complex dance of expectation and investment, reward and let-down. Even when things are going well on the surface, we are always sizing up our friends, and being sized up in turn. This matters because whether we hold our friendships loose or tight, they can define who we are, how we think about ourselves and how others see us. How friendships work and don't work is accordingly a significant part of all of our lives.**

For more than a decade, David Rosetzky and James Lynch have been working, independently, on practices that have been centrally focussed on the ways the individual defines themselves within and against friendships and (typically young) peer-group social life. In the process their work also provides more general insights into the murky arena of humans as social animals whose world-views are forever caught within layers of fantasy and feeling and inner-talk and worry that inevitably and irredeemably blur the imaginary and the real.

Lynch and Rosetzky utilise very different aesthetics to address these concerns. Rosetzky's work is inspired by, and reflects upon, the highly produced forms of television, advertising and cinema, while Lynch's works are small-scale and intimate, hand-made and personal. As well as opening out their artistic interpretation of friendship and self, seeing their work together in this exhibition allows viewers to appreciate the very specific technical and aesthetic approaches that generate their work. The core of their practice is, in key ways, social.

What we experience in 'Circle of friends', is a circling audio-visual conversation about the essence of friendship and the broader and smaller worlds these sit and unfold and change within. It captures the differences between the surface of things and the psychological realities, the individual ways we turn common ideas into our own that both binds and separates us from others, and the manner in which our friendships carve out deep, transient imaginary worlds within us and those we associate with.

This is possibly unsettling as it indicates that there is so much going on beneath the surface that is impossible to control and second guess. It also makes us question the reality of what passes between us as people, associates and friends. The selves that we experience are also inside others, and our selves are both connected but radically distant and impossible to ever really know. The 'Circle of friends' is held together by invisible bonds and barely understood dynamics.

'Circle of friends' will be on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia from Saturday 22 March through Monday 25 August 2008.

**James Lynch**

*Everybody was*  
2006

digital still 3:30 mins

synthetic polymer paint and pencil  
on paper transferred to DVD

On loan from the artist, courtesy of Uplands  
Gallery Melbourne & Galerie Frank Elbaz Paris



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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The West Australian

