

BARBARA CAMPBELL

In May 1970 I was attending primary school in rural South-East Queensland. Getting anything – food, education, news, culture – required visible effort. By 1970 we had a television but reception was poor; the signals bouncing off relay towers along the valley until received by free-standing aerials my father had planted in the cow paddocks around our house. It wasn't until secondary school in Brisbane that I learnt anything about Richard Hamilton's work. Just that one iconic example of British Pop art – Hamilton's *Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing?* (1956) was offered. We acknowledged it and moved on. But I have remembered it.

I've made *Kent State Newsprint* in direct response to Hamilton's 1970 screenprint, both his methodology and the imagery. His rules for image generation (setting up a camera in front of the television to record whatever would appear there) preceded the image. Similarly, I have used my haiku generator (scanning newspapers for five and seven syllable runs of text that I then combine into credible haiku) to plunder the pages of *The Sydney Morning Herald* from May 4–8 1970, the week of the Kent State shootings and their subsequent reportage. Hamilton has written about the time delay between the events on the Kent State campus and hearing of it in the UK. I've also been able to track the time delay between Ohio and Sydney through the newspaper sequence. Like Hamilton, I've chosen to produce an edition of 5000 *Newsprints* (in my case by using newspaper offset print technology) to allow maximum dispersal. Finally, it is up to the gallery visitor to fully realise *Kent State Newsprint*, by taking one of the sheets off the stack and making a graphite rubbing of any of the haiku on the floor nearby.

Sydney-based artist Barbara Campbell has been making performances since 1982. In developing and presenting her works, Barbara plies the specific physical and contextual properties of a given site, be it art gallery, museum, atrium, tower, radio airwaves or the world wide web.

Barbara Campbell
News Haiku: Observer
22/11/09 2009
Dymo label on paper
14.8 x 21 cm

SODDEN NEWSPAPERS

EVERY DAY, OF EVERY WEEK

THEIR DECAYING SCENT

OBSERVER

22 / 11 / 09