

# firstdraft

Gallery 1

3 February – 19 March 2023

## Conversion

EO Gill

*Conversion* uses Hollywood melodrama, porn and “reality” or “documentary” aesthetics and stereotypes to draw on the inherently erotic, persuasive, and seductive nature of cinema and its capacity for conversion. This work traces the prefix “con” to its Latin origins, meaning to trick or deceive, and tethers it to the Freudian theory of conversion as the process by which an unspeakable desire transforms into a speakable one. *Conversion* resonates with Freudian ideas around sexuality and the fetish, a particular kind of substitution where one thing stands in for something else that is lacking.

*Conversion* uses modes of performance and the camera as tools of trickery. Like those slips of the tongue that give insight into the unconscious, these deceptions give access to the unspeakable (and unseeable) and bring the erotic into consciousness.

On a broader level, the work speaks to promises of change and transformation but also what it means to be stuck in transition. *Conversion* exposes the production of gender, and the impossibility of attaining a coherent, singular or fixed identity.

*Conversion*'s dialogue is lifted from a multitude of conversion texts from a variety of genres, including Tony Scott's action film *Days of Thunder* (1990), Eve Sedgwick's meditation on being an analysand, *A Dialogue on Love* (1999), scripted therapy sessions between Tony Soprano and Dr. Melfi in *The Sopranos*, and gay 'physical exam' net-porn.

**EO Gill** is a video artist living and working on Gadigal land (Sydney, Australia). Their creative practice speaks to bodily sites of tension, suspension and play explored through a self-reflexive documentary style. Gill was the recipient of the Create NSW Visual Arts (Emerging) Fellowship (2018) and has exhibited at Bundoora Homestead (Vic) and Artspace (NSW) among others. Most recently Gill curated an exhibition titled *Screwball*, presented at Verge Gallery, June-July 2022 and *Fulgora*, currently on exhibition at National Art School as part of Sydney WorldPride 2023. They are currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Sydney.

This project is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



Gallery 2

**Year Without a Sun**

Anna May Kirk

Gallery 3

**Yvette Hamilton**

The Visible Invisible

Gallery 4

**A Leakage of Wholes (iterations)**

Betty Russ

**firstdraft**  
**gadigal land**  
**13–17 riley street**  
**woolloomooloo**  
**nsw 2011**  
**+61 2 8970 2999**  
**firstdraft.org.au**

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation, the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

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### Artwork

For sales enquiries, please  
email [iameogill@gmail.com](mailto:iameogill@gmail.com)

*Conversion*, 2023  
two-channel video, looped  
15 minutes

Performers: Brian Fuata, Neil Beedie, Julia Hyde  
Cinematography: EO Gill & Jen Atherton  
Additional Camera Work: André Shannon  
Sound Design: Alexander Powers  
Set Design & Costume: Micha Couell  
Makeup & Hair: Anastasia Zaravinos  
Lighting Design: Mark Mailler  
Set-build Support: Celeste Stein  
Production Assist: Jade Muratore, Katie Winten  
Edit: EO Gill, Garden Reflexxx  
Documentation: Remi Todarello, Kris Savic,  
Micha Couell

The artist would like to extend special thanks to  
Creative Practice Lab UNSW, Del Lumanta, Mark  
Mitchell, Solomon Thomas, and Gotaro Uematsu.

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