



**4A AT MOMENTUM SYDNEY**

*ERIC BRIDGEMAN*

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Baby Boom, 2008  
16:9 HD Video

The Fight, 2010  
16:9 HD video

Eric Bridgeman is an emerging Brisbane-based artist who employs film, photography and performance to interrogate and subvert racial and gender stereotypes underpinning national identities of contemporary Australia and Papua New Guinea.

*Baby Boom* (2008) is part of Bridgeman's *The Sport and Fair Play of Aussie Rules* (2008-09) series. The child-like antics of Bridgeman's fictional characters directly mock our conditioned notions of masculinity. What appears like childhood games is in fact an exaggeration of the ritualistic activities of masculine stereotypes such as tradesmen.

In 2009, Bridgeman travelled through remote parts of the Chimbu (Simbu) Province, his mother country in the Highlands of PNG. As he was born in Australia, Bridgeman became increasingly conscious of his own 'white' Australian presence. *The Fight* (2010) is based on the ethnographic conventions, from National Geographic to Irving Penn, that aid in the promotion and consumption of Papua New Guinea as Australia's next frontier. Bridgeman filmed two groups of men from his own clan, the Yuri. Through acting out Western stereotypes of tribal war, *The Fight* parodies the history of representation and the subsequent impact on the national and cultural identity of PNG.

Bridgeman's works are smart, witty and irreverent, creating alternative scenarios and archetypes that use humour to expose the serious implications of culturally imposed identities.

Bridgeman studied at the Queensland College of Art and Griffith University. He has exhibited at 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, the Queensland Centre for Photography, Australian Centre for Photography Sydney, Next Wave Festival Melbourne, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, Institute of Modern Art Brisbane, and Woolloongabba Art Gallery Brisbane. In 2007, he received the Queensland Artworkers Alliance Award.

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Exhibition dates: 12 - 15 May 2010



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Open 11am-6pm, Tuesday - Saturday, closed public holidays



CITY OF SYDNEY

4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc.

We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons: Geoff and Vicki Alinworth, Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Kerr and Judith Neilson; Patrons: Richard Furston, John Lam-Po-Yang; Benefactors: Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM, ARTECELL; Friends: Ann Lewis, Peter Fay, Yeehwan Yeoh and Matt Cox, Liene Rossler, Brooke and Steve Atken, Claire Armstrong and John Sharpe and Dion Woo.  
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