

PENELOPE DAVIS SMACK

12th May- 11th June 2011

GALLERY I

Opening Drinks
Thursday 12th May, 6-8pm



In **Smack**, **Penelope Davis**' latest body of work, jellyfish-like forms have been assembled from a collage of components. These elements include the detritus of contemporary technologies. Among these are cameras, computer parts, mobile phones, wiring and electrical parts. Organic source materials such as leaves and seaweed (many sourced from the community garden plots surrounding **Davis**' studio) are cast and intermixed with these forms. After being cast in silicone, the works are sewn together to create forms that resemble jellyfish. The resulting swarm – or smack, as the collective noun is properly known – is displayed as an installation of semi transparent, suspended forms.

A selection of these 'jellies' have also been placed in the digital scanner and 'photographed'. Some digital post-production work is also employed to create large scale photographic images.

The materials and techniques used allow **Penelope Davis** to play with some of the procedures and assumptions central to photographic practice. The central motif of the jellyfish is a vehicle to examine critical contemporary issues of consumption and environmental degradation.

Penelope Davis has exhibited widely throughout Australia and overseas, most recently in *Interieur – Exterieur* at Lumas in Paris. In 2010, Davis exhibited work in *The Apple Project*, AC Institute, New York and with **Nellie Castan Gallery** at the Depot Gallery in Sydney. In 2007 she was the recipient of the *ANZ Visual Arts Award*. Davis has been a selected finalist in several other award exhibitions such as the *Josephine Ulrich and Wynn Schubert Photography Award*, Gold Coast City Gallery, Queensland (2007 & 2009); the *William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize* (2007), Monash Gallery of Art and the *Fremantle Print Award* (2007), Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia.

Penelope Davis' work has been included in many prestigious group exhibitions including *Order & Disorder: Archives and Photography* (2008); *Light Sensitive: Contemporary Australian Photography* (2006) and *First Impressions* (2003), all at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. She was also part of the Moet and Chandon Touring Exhibition, touring all Australian State Galleries in 1999. In 2003 Davis was the recipient of an Australia Council Studio Residency in Tokyo.

Penelope Davis' work is part of numerous important public and corporate collections nationally and internationally, including the National Gallery of Victoria; Artbank; ANZ Bank; DC Design, China; Victorian College of the Arts; City of Port Phillip; BHP Billiton; University of Melbourne and private collections within Australia, USA, Europe, China and Japan.

For images or further information please contact: shanley@nelliecastangallery.com

Image: Smack, 2011, type C print, 120 x 100 cm