

# Ryan Gander looks like Karl Pilkington and they are both misanthropic northerners

“What move?” “Which restaurant?” “Whose bunion?”

Perhaps it is inadvertent rudeness via inattention until the conversation hits a note I want to hear. Or maybe I’m undertaking less than expert multi-tasking (trolling and hand-washing or sauteeing and waxing). But lately, I’m in the habit of asking the wrong questions at the wrong time.

Picking up the thread mid-conversation when the chat is in full swing, and where those in the circle are with heads thrown back, all pre-big-laugh laughs. The storyteller is stalking attention and why would they stop to answer me?

Like his 2011 site-specific Artangel commission, *Locked Room Scenario*, (a ‘para-possible’ group show of invented artists the visitor was denied access to), *Read Only* lets you in, but only a little bit. No emotional shapes but apparent connective tissue, like a father who finds it difficult to say he loves you Gander doesn’t *do* feelings. Soooo needy, but I’m left wanting. Conceptualism doesn’t deal in hugs though, never has.

I’m not convinced it’s compelling storytelling, is it? Reaching towards so many Modernist signifiers in his work, we are denied the transformative. But this is prankstraction, and I can’t help thinking about [the video interview I saw](#) where it’s possible to see him working on hundreds of groups of index cards, containing images, jokes, scenarios, propositions, patterns, all lined up, just so, ready to be executed with a virtuosic command of materiality.

Most reviewers, critics and curators refute the title of ‘Conceptual artist’. Gander jokes about it, and all prefer ‘ideas artist’ or ‘inspiration-from-everything artist’. I prefer Ideas Man-boy. He comes from a long art historical genealogy of Ideas Men, each following the leader. And here in Melbourne, where public lectures, visiting artists and touring exhibitions can set off flurries of investigations into spirituality, choreography, the economy etc, will this set us off back into the bad old days of tricky sk8er Unmonumental-ism? And while I’m asking, why is

everyone wearing these? Are they really that comfortable?

Ryan Gander, [Read Only](#), ACCA, Melbourne, 4 June - 2 August 2015.



Nike Flex Run



Ryan Gander, ACCA



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Photos lit by computer screens  
 Corner of a frame in a frame  
 Kid in muscle suit  
 Ikebana doodles  
 Mondrian on pegboard  
 Hed

Shuttering marble chrome and black leather  
 Pan American smile  
 Try to get architectural schematic diagrams of an office building, make a map and put an arrow of how to get there

Works that are artists studios  
 Flou

Concrete sculpture / or where about the walking route using directional arrows and small bits of wood for poles

Repeat pattern in stage directions camera movement gaffer tape  
 Monocle radio show as a work  
 Floating animation, like Lord of the Rings intro / trailer  
 Conceive of an art work that is an ephemeral experience  
 Left / state by the

Tiny new exclamation  
 door  
 The changing show automatically moving walls, like Dutch collectors  
 Different colour temperature bulbs together  
 Matt spray job 'frosted'  
 Curt silve drap

Mini crop marks on the wall to define an area.  
 Jordan diamonds  
 Bottle of clear liquid left in space  
 Rajio Taiso  
 Vitrine with mount board huge with lots of cut out holes  
 Squashed against windows  
 Make to see sitting

The 'y' from Honda civic back  
 Big sand-cast variation  
 Marks worn around the space from leaning  
 Contractually another crate is made  
 Eskimo tool  
 PS3 game zombies  
 Venetian blind in frame  
 An US narrative moving Document

Lots of tyre spikes  
 A grounded mesmerizing fire torch  
 Best poem about internet art idealized view of reality  
 End up  
 Make a fictional Ikebana work  
 Christmas song  
 A work with dried pasta sprayed painted gold  
 Cast, draw plast

Cinema screen shaped hole in wall  
 Clowns On Coffee break  
 strong  
 Poster of pier shapes  
 Small Den on palette  
 Small Den leaning upright  
 Dens table

Remake big wooden letter  
 Disco button which turns on lights when you touch it  
 Claude-...  
 Sticky backed foam  
 Sculptures two sets Ryan and olive face off  
 Godfingers square paper  
 Touch work

Reductive intelligence  
 Inductive intelligence  
 Football kit  
 Milk t with

dez g marker  
 Fest... meet  
 Drone-bull meet  
 allours chalk meet  
 Violin meet

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