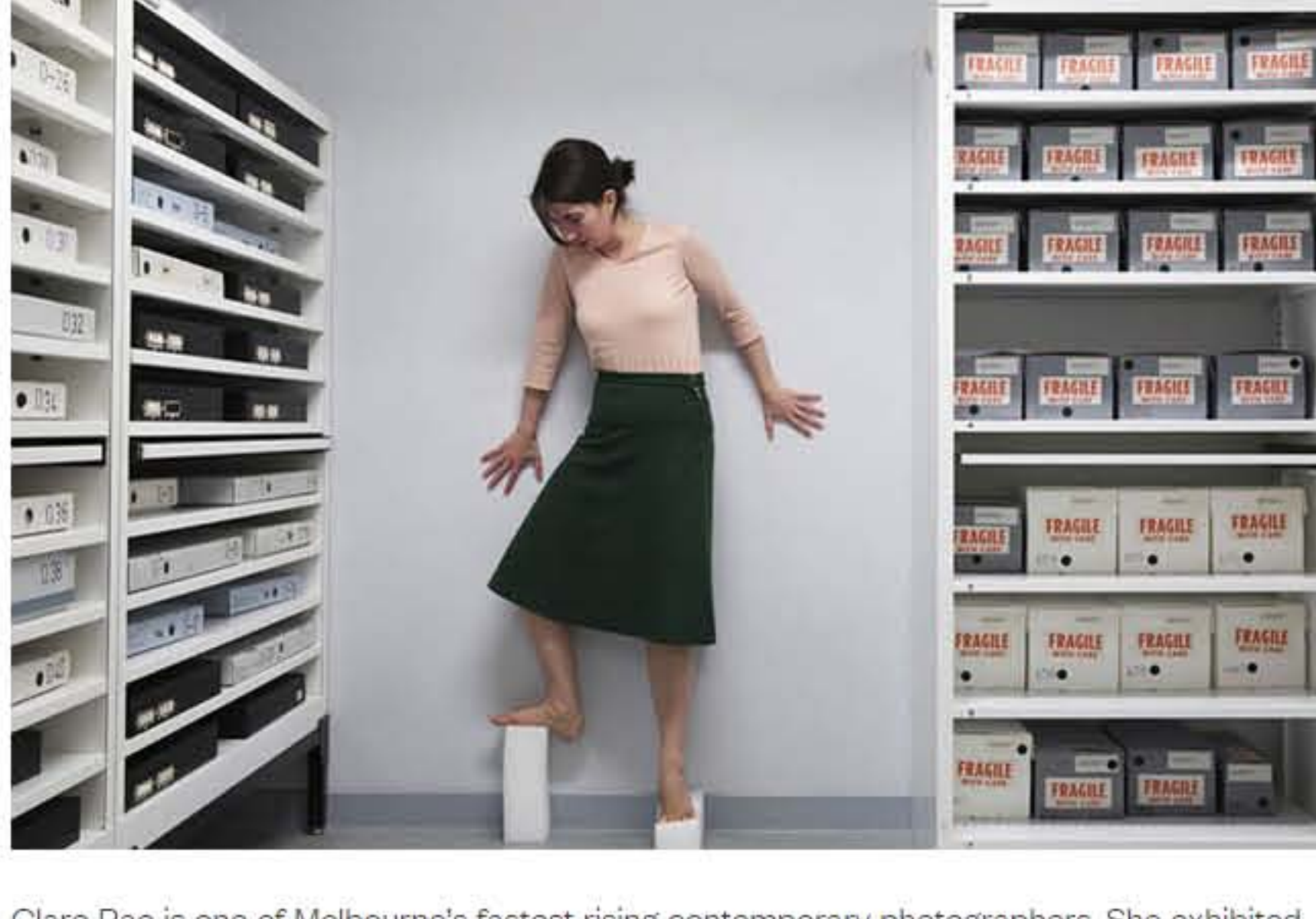


## Clare Rae and Simone Hine create 'Stages'

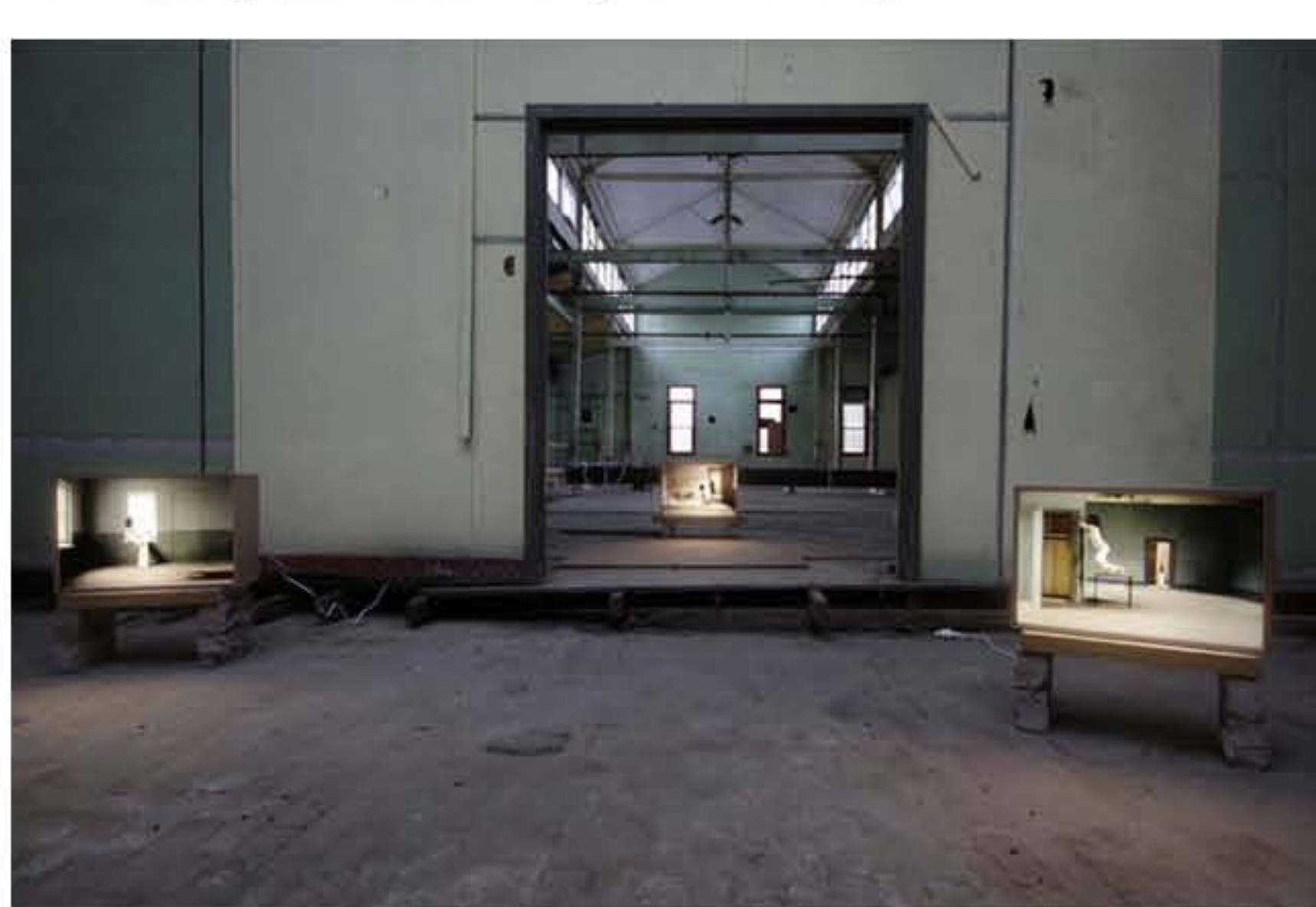
Posted by Beth Wilkinson on 3 Apr 2014



Clare Rae is one of Melbourne's fastest rising contemporary photographers. She exhibited in NGV's Melbourne Now, was recently commissioned to do a series for Melbourne's famed dance company [Chunky Move](#) as part of their rebrand, is represented by [Beam Contemporary](#) and we're proud to say she's also no stranger to the Abbotsford Convent. Her works are visually light, yet conceptually multifaceted as she inquires into themes of gender, whilst exploring the possibilities of her surrounds. It is via a dialogue between performance and photography that these investigations are studied and presented.



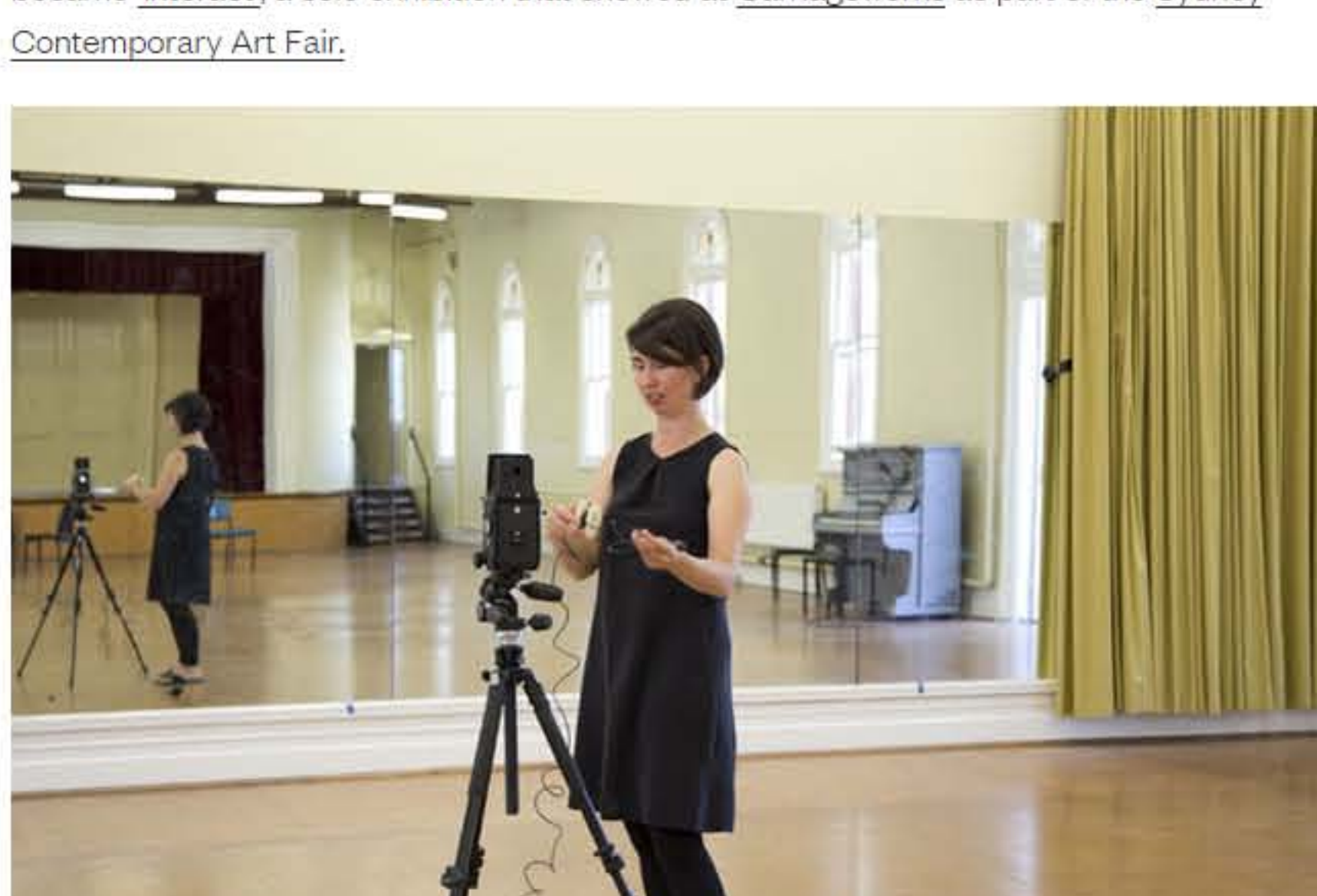
The story between Clare and the Convent began in 2011 when Clare exhibited ['Light Weight'](#) at [Beam Contemporary](#), a series of photographs exploring just that – light and weight. The images show Clare jumping in various locations that to the naked eye could be anywhere, but to Convent-acquainted eyes; those textures are only too familiar. What no one knew when this series was created is that this would be the first of many creative interactions between an insightful artist and a meaningful site and its rich past.



Soon after ['Light Weight'](#) Clare was invited to be part of a group show curated by the Abbotsford Convent. [Let Me Out](#) was an initiative to take art outside of the 'white box gallery' context and into the Convent grounds. Seventeen artists were involved in the project, with work spread across the entire site and a strong prominence in Sacred Heart, an area of the site that had previously not been regularly activated. Clare's work consisted of three handmade light boxes in the Magdalen Laundries showing photographs of her moving within the upstairs-unrestored spaces of Sacred Heart.



It was only last year that Clare returned to the Convent, to further investigate themes of femininity, the body and movement in the raw and history-rich spaces of Sacred Heart and Rosina. There is something very beautiful and intriguing about Clare's work within these spaces. The juxtaposition between the past, when those rooms housed thousands of girls who covered their bodies and lived with constrained movements, to Clare's current openness in exploring the female body and concepts around identity. That series of images became ['Interact'](#), a solo exhibition that showed at [Carriageworks](#) as part of the [Sydney Contemporary Art Fair](#).



Now Clare is working on a new body of work. This new series similarly explores ideas around the body within space, only this time, Clare is collaborating with artist [Simone Hine](#). Simone is a visual artist, curator and gallery director, also based in Melbourne. She is the co-founder and co-director of two galleries; [Screenspace](#), a not for profit independent screen-based gallery and [Beam Contemporary](#), a commercial gallery based in Melbourne's CBD that represents Clare Rae. Simone's art practice focuses on photography, performance, moving image and installation, so in many ways, it makes so much sense for us to see the two artists working together. Simone is also interested in time-based site-specific projects, another curiosity she shares with Clare and another element that draws them together for ['Stages'](#).



For this collaborative project, Clare and Simone hired the beautiful [Rosina Auditorium](#). They created separate works, each responding to the space with their own ideas and aesthetic. They worked together in the conceptual stage of the project, independently in the space, then together again to tie the work together. Clare's photographs will sit alongside a multi-channel video by Simone where the two artists will simultaneously present their own ways of understanding and portraying the female body within the space. This amalgamation of the work between two high caliber intuitive artists can only equate to something beautiful. The exhibition will be presented in Brisbane at [Boxcopy](#) from 5 – 26 April, with the opening from 6pm on the 5th, as part of the [Queensland Festival of Photography](#). Watch this space for a follow up feature of installation images and catalogue text.

### Stages

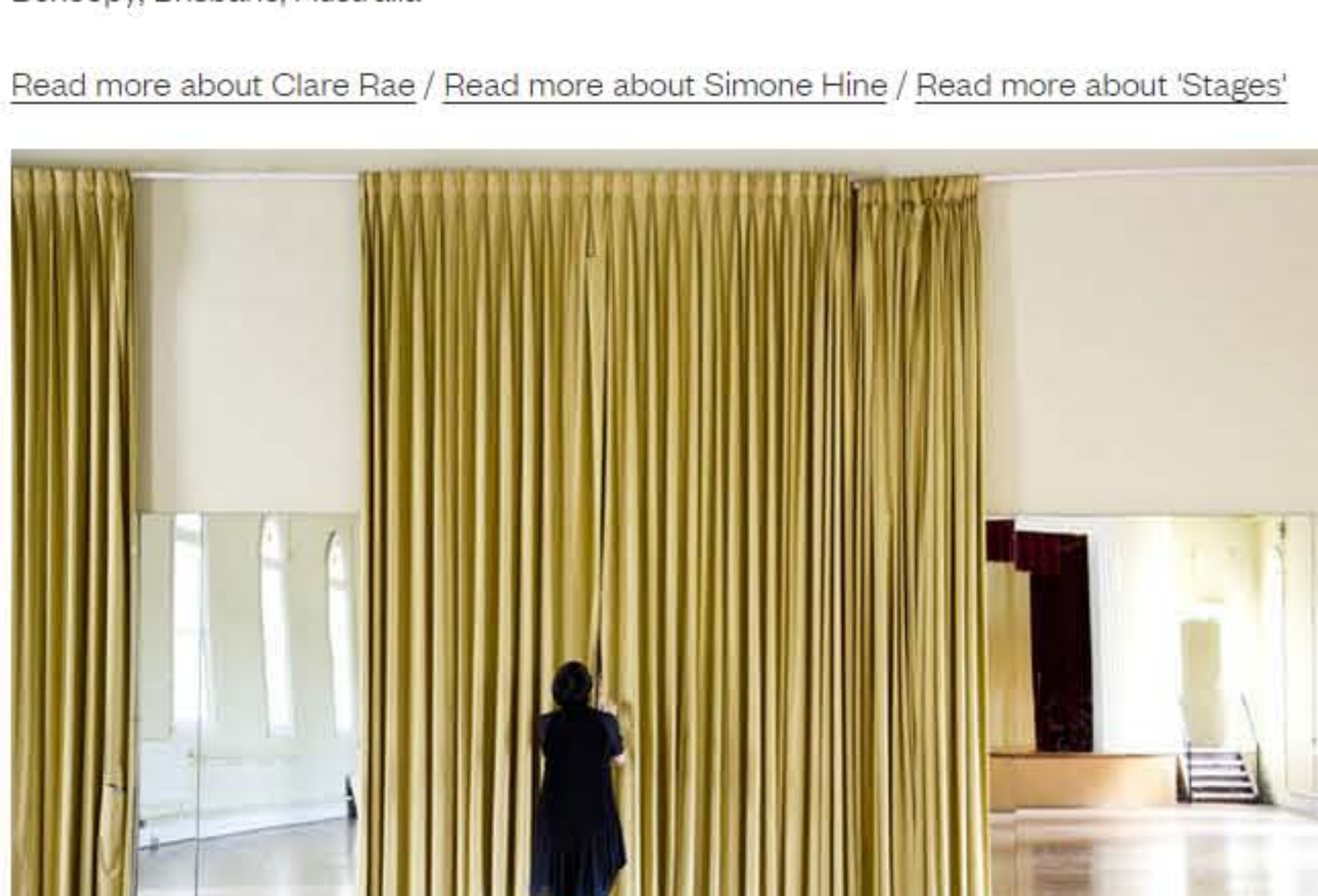
New works by Simone Hine & Clare Rae

Opening: Saturday 5 April, 6pm

Showing: Saturday 5 – Saturday 26 April 2014

Boxcopy, Brisbane, Australia

[Read more about Clare Rae](#) / [Read more about Simone Hine](#) / [Read more about 'Stages'](#)



Images (from top to bottom):  
 Clare Rae, 'Untitled (glass plates)', 'Melbourne Now', National Gallery of Victoria, 2013  
 Clare Rae, 'Light Weight', Installation View, Beam Contemporary, 2011  
 Clare Rae, 'Untitled (Magdalen)', 'Let Me Out', Abbotsford Convent, 2012  
 Clare Rae, 'Untitled #2', 'Interact', Sydney Contemporary, 2013  
 Beth Wilkinson, Clare Rae creating work for 'Stages', Abbotsford Convent, 2014  
 Beth Wilkinson, Simone Hine creating work for 'Stages', Abbotsford Convent, 2014  
 Beth Wilkinson, Simone Hine creating work for 'Stages', Abbotsford Convent, 2014

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**The Grounds** 7.30am – 10.00pm, every day.

**The Office** 9.00am – 5.30pm, Mon – Fri (exc. public holidays).

**What's Open?** [View specific open times.](#)

### Contact Us

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**Post** PO Box 417 Abbotsford, VIC 3067 Australia.

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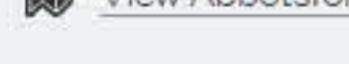
The Abbotsford Convent doesn't receive recurrent government funding, so every bit of support is greatly appreciated.

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