

Charlie Sofo (born 1983)

Australia

Birds 2008

single channel video, standard definition (SD), 4:3, colour, stereo sound

Chartwell Collection

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

purchased 2010

‘I spy with my little eye . . .’ From an early age we are taught to observe and gather visual knowledge by putting things into categories (colour, type, difference). The point of the ‘I spy’ game is to a) fill in time, b) hone looking skills, c) communicate with others, and d) win. The game is also about the quixotic nature of time. Things, especially seen from a moving vehicle, are fleeting and ephemeral. If the person guessing is not quick enough the reference will have disappeared – ha! Another travelling diversion, the number plate game – shouting out words that come quickly to mind ordered by the alphabetic prefixes – IRE, ZEA, TRD, et cetera – teaches quick linguistic skills and puzzle-solving. There are so many opportunities for brain training in our everyday lives.

Charlie Sofo has retained this delight in observing and creating something from his environment. For years he has mined the everyday and found objects and things that map his time and place in the world. Groups, lists, collections, observations and navigations accumulate as an archive of place and space.

Sometimes Sofo adds sound and music to his catalogues. Inspired by the ideas of John Cage and his ‘chance music’, Sofo assigns musical notes to his sightings. *Birds*, 2008 is such a case with its composition created from the event of birds landing on high wires. Each sighting has been assigned a coloured dot and a musical tone to create a visual and musical composition. A jaunty, pleasure-filled minute and 29 seconds, made all the more so for Sofo’s kindly curation.

Pipilotti Rist (born 1962)

Switzerland

Extremities (Smooth, Smooth) 1999

three-channel video, audio installation, sofa

Courtesy of the artist

Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist is renowned for her immersive, pleasure filled video environments in which she encourages her audience to relax, meditate and lull themselves via images of flotational flux lapped by sonic murmers. In these days of uncertainty and trepidation we need moments of tranquillity and levity. So please, take your leave through the elixir of Pipilotti Rist's floating world where the body levitates in free space and joyously feels smooth, smooth and unworried; where we blend with the extremities and feel part of a larger cosmos joining with the material of millennia – molecular, symbiotic with the environment. Be kind to others and kind to yourselves. Be light.