

## CEREMONY

Leading up to the once exclusive Canberra Club, the stairwell adjoining the overpass on Alinga St has more recently become a sanctuary for smokers and junkies seeking shelter from public view. The VIPs long gone, the unexpected formality of *Ceremony* creates a sense of ritual and anticipation designed to last 21 days.

The installation of red carpet and drapes creates a strong contrast to the deteriorating architecture of the neglected site. The brutality of concrete and steel is hardly disguised by the soft fabrics, but the introduction of these theatrical elements invite the public to imagine the extraordinary as they perform their own daily rituals.

Samantha Small graduated with a Master of Art (Fine Art) from Goldsmith's College London in 2004 and a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) from the University of South Australia in 1997. Samantha has held seven solo exhibitions since 2001 including the Waiting Room at Canberra Contemporary Art Space and the Centre for Contemporary Photography Melbourne in 2007 and exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including New York Calling at the Australian Studio PSI Contemporary Art Centre New York. Samantha has received numerous awards and prizes including an Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship in 2003 and recently an Australia Council New Work Grant in 2007.

