

dianne tanzer gallery + projects

108-110 Gertrude St, Fitzroy VIC 3065

23 October - 20 November 2010



Love Susan tells the tale of two journeys. The first is undertaken by 'Susan', a young Australian nurse who sets out from London in 1980 on an overland and overseas adventure through Holland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. Along the way, Susan is dedicated in her correspondence with family and friends whose frequent postcards contain the somewhat curious request to 'Please keep the card'.

Found as a collection of postcards at a secondhand market on the South Coast of NSW, the request becomes more clear. On her return to Australia, Susan reclaims the postcards and creates her own personal archive of the original experience. 28 years later, she sells her archive for \$5 to an artist who just happens to be interested in the intimate details of the lives of strangers.

Piecing together the dates and destinations from stamps and postmarks, the artist reconstructs Susan's itinerary with meticulous detail. Setting out on 4 July 2008, 'Sxxx' travels to London to begin her reconstruction of an 8 week journey through 8 countries. The plan is to recreate a corresponding archive of experience to be 'returned to sender'.

Having located Susan's current address through the White Pages, the artist maintains constant communication with her unknown travel guide through a series of postcards that directly reference Susan's earlier correspondence. Once home, Susan responds to Sxxx's request to 'Please keep the card' and returns the entire series to the artist's PO Box in Canberra (Susan's own birthplace), along with a short letter and photograph of her family.

Susan invites her 'time-travel companion' to visit or email, but for Sxxx this risks breaking a special kind of intimacy that exists only between strangers. Distance maintained, 'Love Susan' represents the journey taken by one, two, and many.

love Susanxxx

Samantha Small