

# ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

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## PRESS RELEASE



## LUCY HARVEY

## WORKS FROM GUIDE TO LIFE

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Commenced in 1997, **Guide To Life** is a constantly expanding reference work in which the information necessary for a successful life is collected and catalogued. It is both a work in its own right as well as the containing structure for every other work. **Guide To Life** is organized under six chapter headings: **I Basic Philosophy; II Necessary Knowledge; III Productive Living; IV Autobiography; V Beauty; VI Art-Making**. The works in the current exhibition come principally from **Chapter VI**. As the artists says:

*...Guide To Life offers me a feeling of security –or rather an illusion of security – within the almost unbearable arbitrariness and self-indulgence of an artistic practice, which in turn takes place within the otherwise almost unbearable pointlessness of life itself...* (Guide To Life VI(C).3(c): Repeating Works (Text))

Harvey's works are realised in a range of different media; drawing, video, photography, text are all deployed according to the requirements of the work. And therein, this time, lies the rub. What are the requirements of the work? Is an artist driven by inner necessity? Can the artwork be art if it is rendered functional by responding to a commission or externally driven context?

*...I decided that the best way of resolving my questions about commissioned works would be actively to go on the offensive; by deliberately recreating the conditions that had give rise to them. So I deliberately gave myself the commission of making a work for Anthony Reynolds Gallery...(Ibid.)*

In this exhibition, the ground floor gallery gives us the sharp, elegant and entertaining response to this commission. But of course, the response itself cannot but refer to the practise gained from earlier situations.

In the first floor gallery, four drawings suggest some *Practical Strategies* from *Chapter III. Productive Living* and from *Chapter IV. Autobiography* a video close-up of the artist's lips sings the sweetest rendition of Pink Floyd you are ever likely to hear.

*...Maybe when I feel as if I am being driven by my internal necessity rather than by desire it is only because I have been more successful in inventing reasons to convince myself that I know what I am doing. I'm not sure... I expect that I will eventually recognise that there is nothing tragic about being an artist with a job to do and that there is no shame in just trying to make the world a bit prettier...*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT MARCELO SPINELLI AT THE GALLERY**