REBECCA SHANAHAN
OPEN FOR MAINTENANCE ǀ WE ARE STILL ALIVE

During March at SCA Galleries Rebecca Shanahan is mending the clothes you bring her and providing you with bread.

In **OPEN FOR MAINTENANCE** the artist occupies the gallery during opening hours to mend clothes brought by visitors. No money changes hands, there is no behind-the-scenes installation and no objects produced for exhibition by an absent artist: all parts of the work are open. Referencing the 'maintenance art' of Mierle Laderman Ukeles, **OPEN FOR MAINTENANCE** creates a form of civil relationship between individuals that stands outside commodity exchange or paid services. The work observes the passing of time through fabric wear and repair and the labour of once-routine maintenance that is now rare as a result of globalisation.

In **WE ARE STILL ALIVE** the artist bakes sourdough bread from home-generated sourdough yeast culture and provides both bread and culture in the gallery every day for visitors to help themselves. **WE ARE STILL ALIVE** references On Kawara's series of telegrams sent to friends stating I AM STILL ALIVE. It applies his person-to-person reiteration of individual existence to the communal. A sourdough culture can last hundreds of years when nurtured and shared, actions not always accommodated with some of contemporary Australian culture's more dominant contexts of capitalism, globalisation and security anxiety.

In both works, screen moments document daily activities by the artist and visitors and create a new timeframe. Retrieving something of the pre-digital affect of the absent photographic subject, these moments consider the contemporary photographic vernacular's new relationships with time and feeling. Roland Barthes' famous 'what-has-been' of the photographic trace has been transformed into 'this-is-now', in which life is lived, documented and shared nearly simultaneously.

SCA Galleries, Sydney College of the Arts, Balmain Rd Rozelle
Open 11-5 daily except Sunday (Saturdays 12-4pm) 5–28 March 2015