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**GLEN CLARKE**  
*'C' Space Congeries* (detail left) 2009  
Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laos, American  
and Afghan currencies on cotton paper  
110 x 160 cm

On the surface, Glen Clarke fabricates large objects out of small multiples. As David Hansen put it so well, through a device which he calls “serial accumulation”, Glen Clarke has for well over a decade “applied this device to a variety of forms...: 120,000 marshmallows to make a sunset sky after the manner of Tasmanian colonial painter W.C. Piguenit; 14,000 clothes pegs to make a stack of nine plumbing pipes from the back of a builder’s truck; 5,500 wooden school rulers to make a dingy for convicts and refugees; 5,000 pairs of chopsticks to make three car tyres.”

If we were looking for an art movement within which to place Clarke’s working methods we would certainly have to consider “Deconstruction” which was

ushered onto the world stage through the 1987 documenta in Kassel, Germany. Defined quite differently from linguistic forms of the movement, Deconstruction in the visual arts involved the bringing together of everyday objects in a way that might be described as “surreal” – or it involved the pirating of industrial processes in the manufacture of non-functional art objects which nevertheless had a functional feel about them.

Clarke has brilliantly fused together the manufactured feel of Deconstruction with the emotions of Asia and holds it all together with what I will call an “Australian Boundary Rider” aesthetic. He has recently become fascinated – in a very human rather than a military way – with explosions, particularly those caused

by landmines in Vietnam, Iraq, and Africa. I can identify with this having almost been blown up in the Guildford pub bombings of 1974, one of the IRAs first mainland operations. “I have been trying to link the work with earlier research into Martin Heidegger’s metaphysical concepts of ‘The Nothinging’. I am interested in the void and emptiness, particularly the Zen belief that ‘Space is nothing but emptiness. Emptiness is nothing but space.’”

*Excerpt from essay by Dr Peter Hill, August 2008*

*Dr Peter Hill is the Head of Painting and Associate Professor of Fine Art at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney*



# GLEN CLARKE

## YOUR OWN PERSONAL HOLOCAUST AND OTHER RELATED STORIES

16 OCTOBER – 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Please join us for drinks to preview the exhibition  
at Despard Gallery on Friday 16 October 6pm



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LEFT: *In God We Trust* (detail) 2008 Vietnam, Cambodian, Iraqi and US currencies on cotton paper 110 x 160 cm  
COVER: *The Nothinging / Shadow – Blackhawk* 2008 Vietnam, Cambodian, Iraqi and US currencies on cotton paper 160 x 110cm