

KICK for Jim Allen Memorial
Auckland Art Gallery Atrium
17 June 2023

Materials:

- One stainless steel bucket (filled with water)
- Four megaphones
- Two mops
- Text from the Allen Archive
- Hood
- Bass drum

Participants:

- Ruth Allen – The Blind Master
- James Charlton – Speaker
- Wystan Curnow – The Writer
- Phil Dadson – Drummer
- Andrea Daly - Speaker
- Adrian Hall – Speaker
- Erica Seccombe - Speaker

Duration: Determined by the actions of The Blind Master.

- Seating configured in a U shape away from windows.
- Unannounced following the formal speeches.
- All actions are carried out in an understated manner – the participants are carrying out a task rather than performing to an audience.

The four Speakers discretely take up their position in the corners where the megaphones and mops have been set up. Speakers start reading/shouting short excerpts from their texts across the space to each other – at times responding to each other and at other times speaking over each other – perhaps attempting engaged in some form of conversation. Random and varied time intervals. This continues throughout the following actions:

- The Blind Master is hooded and bound by the Drummer.
- The Writer takes up their seat and starts writing.
- The Drummer carries the bucket of water to the centre of the space.
- The Blind Master is turned around several times to disorient them.

- The Drummer straps on drum.
- The Blind Master feels their way around the space with their feet in search of the bucket – kicking out in their attempts to find it. This continues until the Blind Master connects with the bucket. At which point she collapse on the floor.

As soon as the bucket is kicked the four Speakers stop reading and methodically and silently mop up the water. (One Speaker brings their megaphone with them and leaves it on the floor near the collapsed blind master.)

The Speakers work together to mop up the water – squeezing water back into the bucket and using towels/rags to dry up as best they can.

While the water is being cleared up the Blind Master slowly starts to move unbinding her hands and attempting to get the hood off their head.

When they have finished cleaning up the Speakers leave the space together via the stairs. Followed by the Drummer and the Writer.

The Blind Master, now free from their hood, picks up the megaphone and starts reading Ginsberg's *Howl* through the mega phone to the bucket of water (close and intimate with the bucket). When finished the Blind Master stands up, leaves the bucket and megaphone and walks off down the stairs.