



Urban eye

Big cities, tiny people: the vast community portraits of Crowd Theory - in pictures

▲ Crowd Theory: Footscray, 2004
Photographs: Courtesy the artist and
Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

Crowd Theory is an ongoing series of performance-based urban events, in which Melbourne-based artist Simon Terrill asks locals to perform 'an idea of how they imagine their communities'

All images: courtesy the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne



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About this content

Thu 31 Jan 2019 18:00 AEDT

Crowd Theory: Port of Melbourne, 2008

For each project, an invitation is made to anyone and everyone with an association to each site to come together for a single, yet collective photographic portrait. Crowd Theory is at The Centre for Contemporary Photography in Melbourne, 2nd February -31 March 2019



Crowd Theory: Southbank, 2007

Each work involves extensive



collaboration, through the mobilisation of up to 300 people, as well as the coordination of lighting, soundtracks, smoke machines, catering and marshalling, creating a theatre-like atmosphere



Crowd Theory: Southbank, 2007, detail

Participants are given a specified a time for the event, but are encouraged to choose how to represent themselves, creating a socially-charged space which reveals tensions between public and private identities



Crowd Theory: South of the River, 2016

This artwork features 180 students at St Saviour's and St Olave's School in Southwark, London





Crowd Theory: South of the River, 2016, detail

A large format camera was set up on the roof of a tower block opposite, construction site lights were placed in situ, a smoke machine was activated and a DJ played music



Crowd Theory: South of the River, 2016, detail

Every ten minutes, a siren was sounded, the music stopped and the school was silent as the groups held their pose for each long-exposure shot



Crowd Theory: Footscray, 2004

The first iteration of Crowd Theory took place at Footscray Community Art Centre in Melbourne in 2004 and the most recent event was staged in Thamesmead, London





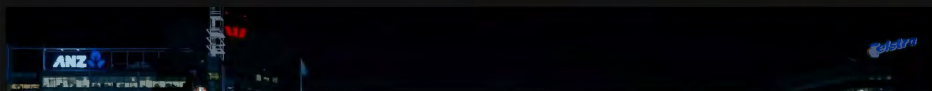
Crowd Theory: Braybrook, 2004



Crowd Theory: Footscray Station, 2006



Crowd Theory: Adelaide: Victoria Square /Tamtanyangga, 2013





**Crowd Theory:
Thamesmead, 2017**

On 15 April 2017, over 100 people gathered at dusk by the foot of the towers on Southmere Lake to make a large-scale portrait of South Thamesmead, featuring those who live there



**Crowd Theory:
Thamesmead, 2017**



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