



Images of the work  
Source: Cathy Smith and Matthew Dixon

## Project: *Behind the Boundary*, 2000

**Designer / maker:** Cathy Smith with rearrangements by artists and the public at the West End street festival.

**Brief:** temporary, interactive street installation

**Address:** West End (corner of Boundary and Vulture streets), Brisbane, Australia, October 2000.

### Description:

This one-day project was made as an experiment in economy, repurposing and interaction. Constructed of polystyrene fruit boxes of varying sizes, the work acted as prop for spontaneous street performances by different artists; and was available for the general public to move and relocate. The boxes were painted and covered in soft, coloured netting and thin ply. The smaller boxes resembled toy alphabet blocks that collectively spelt the word 'boundary'; a reference to the street in which the work was located; and to the controversial racial curfew boundary that once divided the area. Yet the aim was to create a work that could be touched and manipulated, dismantling the boundaries behind reified art and the audience - and with this in mind, the penultimate event involved children and a street performer smashing several boxes! The larger boxes acted as a screen for evening slide projections by a visual artist. Remnant boxes were incorporated into a subsequent artwork, *Boundary*, in the QUT Art Museum.

### List of publications referring to the *Behind the Boundary* project:

- Leonard, Doug (2000). *Behind the Boundary?* *West End Neighbourhood News*. Brisbane: 14
- Smith, C. (2001), 'Soft Architectures', in *Internet research 2.0: INTERconnections* conference, October 11-14, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota
- Smith, C. (2003), 'Between-ness: Theory and Practice within the Margins of Excess', in *IDEA Journal 2003: Between Excess and Austerity*, Volume 1, issue 4, Brisbane: Queensland University of Technology, 131-144.

