

# ART FORUM

Friday May 22 2009

# Leigh Hobba



Leigh Hobba; Hermansburg bush studio, August 2008

## “skirr” – the noise of birds’ wings in flight.

In his recent survey exhibition, *Leigh Hobba –The Space of Presence*, at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Leigh Hobba was described as “one of Australia’s most highly regarded video and performance, installation and sound artists. Employing the rich thematic arc of Tasmanian landscapes in video and sound, the works reveal many of Hobba’s themes and practices – a wry humour; politics; collaboration and the potential of video from its archaeology into the future, and as a medium for the exploration of sound in nature.”

Leigh Hobba will discuss life after survey shows in the context of new work, travel, and performance, and his search for deep silence in the Australian desert, where he discovered, most profoundly, it was “*not the bird, but the flutter*”, or “skirr” – a word, one of 24, recently short listed for extinction from the **Complete Collins English Dictionary**. While walking the Larapinta Trail west of Alice Springs, the pilgrims trail of St Jacques de Compostelle in France, new media festivals in Europe and, a residency in Bundanon, NSW, he pondered the idea that ‘ART’ might be the 25<sup>th</sup> word.

**12.30 pm Dechaineux Lecture Theatre**

