#### THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS ON THE DAY THAT BECAME THE STONEWALL RIOT

**GALLERY INSTALLATIONS** 

with the same of t







who lives in Amsterdam, is Marijke van Warmerdam,

signification. In her work what is familiar becomes strange, what is present acquires more presence; space is amplified by the volume of crete, most banal, and ordinary elements of daily life. Awakened by the at daily life in a passive way. Van Warmerdam strips images and usual becomes enigmatic, and the routine becomes surprising. Reality sented in an ordinary fashion and says that, "An image looks powerful artist's subtle interventions, the viewer no longer looks at the city and objects of their conventions, usages, and habits thereby displacing is suddenly inhabited by a virtuality until then unperceived; the dreams; language is augmented by wit. She wants her work to be preonly if it is as if the camera was never there; it comes close to reality attached to the most disand appears casually." JMR COLLECTING IS THROWING AWAY UNTIL IT COMES BACK.

NVW.

Mathew Jones, who lives in Sydney, Australia, is a conceptual artist whose work speaks of queer sexuality and of his own life. The artist questions the political dimension of contemporary practices in the social, sexual or artistic fields through an effective plastic and graphic expression. The present installation consists in an accumulation of newspapers which

are printed copies of the tracing he made of each

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ness, rightfulness and self-assurance. But his position should not be quasi religious ritual. This work celebrates in its own way the riot provoked by anti-homosexual repression which occurred at The Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969, five days after the death of Judy Garland. Jones' militant awareness imparts his work with impervioustaken for mere desire to provoke, nor to suppress a solely political endeavor. His activism, which is commanded by real historical conditions, is a necessity secretly inhabited by a haughty despair. page, in an obsessive and

At 1:20 a.m. on Saturday, June 28, 1969, a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, turned into a riot when the patrons unexpectedly fought back. The continued for several nights came to be seen as the violent skirmishes between police and gays which genesis of the modern gay rights movement.

to experience some sense of recreation, I went out of ike most gay tourists in New York one of the first things I did was to visit the Stonewall Inn. Wanting my way to go there, but found just another non descript bar on Christopher St. I felt oddly disappointed—I walked in and then straight out again.

News of Friday, June 27, 1969. I doubt anyone theless Jones has laboriously copied by hand every true cause of the riot which was to begin hours later? is it a coincidence that Judy Garland's funeral service was held earlier that afternoon at Madison and 84th Street? Is it significant that Lynns was advertising a Mathew Jones has recreated the New York Daily actually reads any newspaper cover to cover, and few word, every image, every article and advertisement. Clearly, Jones isn't interested in the reporting of the event but rather in its catalyst. Is he searching for the two piece cotton floral print suit with fully lined Perhaps motivated by a similar sense of pilgrimage, of us will find the time to read this one, but neveracket and skirt for only two dollars?

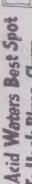
terized by an ambivacopies variable, 100 Mathew Jones from 1,000 copies of the New York Daily News on the day that became reproduced by hand from microfiche 1996 web-printing on newsprint, number of the Stonewall Riot, pages per copy, each 14 1/2 × 10 1/2"

Stonewall. ern gay movement is Perhaps this search for the 'start' of the modnot academic but activist-an attempt to empower himself to spark another riot. reprinted in hundreds Certainly lying here of copies the paper begs distribution. But

STOT WHITE HERE'S GO AN ALL-NIGH DATTY & NEWS 84 FINE DAILY E NEWS IGIL FOR Ask L Z

Australian arena earned him a description as "the lence towards gay activism which in the PC permanent heretic of a movement that can tolerate no indiscreetness." Typically mimicking artifacts of he throws all confidence in their interpretation into political agency-placards, stickers, newsclippingsquestion and all responsibility for their efficacy back upon the viewer.

convincing Lynns to bring back its two dollar sale on Dumped here in slightly the wrong place, on slightly the wrong date, this stockpile could equally attest to a frustration and disillusion with all that has happened since Stonewall; a desire to rip it all up and start again. An absurd, arduous project, it speaks, on all levels, of wasted effort, of time better spent floral print suits, or drinking at a better bar than the



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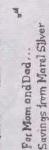


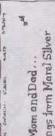


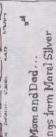


















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#### News Flash

rt Object of the Moment: A copy of the June 27, 1969. Daily News with the headline AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL FOR JUDY. Copies of this 28-year-old issue are cropping up around town, left on the subway, in bars, and outside galleries by **Australian artist Mathew** Jones, who isn't littering so much as delivering his art-Conceptualism with an Outsider spin—to an unsuspecting public (copies are also available for \$8 at Printed Matter, 77 Wooster Street). Jones, who's been dividing his time between Australia and New York following a 1996 residency at P.S. I, drew each of the paper's 100 pages—including the E. J. Korvette and S. Klein ads. Brenda Starr and Blondie, TV listings, classifieds, and sports stats—with an increasingly free hand from microfilm records. The drawings, part obsession, part ordeal, took 10 months: the whole project, more than @ year to complete and reproduce on newsprint. Why this particular date? Though June 27, 1969, was the day of the Stonewall riot, the newspapersave, perhaps, for its center spread of photos-turned-



drawings from the previous day's Judy Carland funeral—is significantly insignificant. "I'm interested in events that are causal," Jones says, but since the paper doesn't begin to hint at its momentous history, he sees his time capsule of the last day before the gay-lib revolution as "melancholy—like I've missed it by a hair's breadth."

-VINCE ALEITI

...



Mathew JONES

250 copies of the New York Daily News on the day that became the Stonewall Riot, copied by hand from microfilm records (scattered) 1996 webprint newspaper from original drawings, plastic straps and metal clips edition unlimited, 40 pages (unfinished version) each 30 X 40 Courtesy of Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne; Rostyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney Photograph; Courtesy of the artist

#### Mathew JONES

Mathew Jones was born in Melbourne in 1961 and left the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne in 1985 after studying a Bachelor of Arts. Since 1987, he has been in numerous group exhibitions including *Imaging AIDS*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne in 1989; in 1990, *Moët & Chandon Touring Exhibition*, touring nationally; in 1991, *Australian Perspecta 91*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; in 1993, *You Are Here*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane; Martin Browne Gallery, Sydney; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne; Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide; *Dislocations: Body, Memory, Place*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; in 1994, *Don't Leave Me This Way: Art in the Age of AIDS*, Australian National Gallery, Canberra; *Adelaide Installations*, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; *Dark O'Clock*, Museu de Arte Moderna, Soa Paulo, Brazil in 1994 and Winnipeg, Canada in 1995; *In the Ruins of the Twentieth Century*, PS1 Museum (offsite), New York; *No Tell Hotel*, Tramway (offsite), Glasgow; *Walldrawings*, Nicolaj Kirke, Copenhagen; *Big New Sites*, cinemas nationwide, Australia in 1996. Jones' solo exhibitions include Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane 1991; Linden Gallery, Melbourne in 1992; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne and Australian Centre for Photography, Jones in 1993; Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne in 1994 and in 1995, Toronto Photographers Workshop, Toronto: The Clocktower studio 11, New York; Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney; Artspace, Sydney and Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra. Mathew Jones is represented by Tolarno Galleries in Melbourne and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Sydney and currently lives and works in New York.

## "evlews

## New York Daily Times

New York Daily News on the day that became the Stonewall Riot, copied by hand from microfilm records (1996) by Mathew Jones. Tolarno Galleries, Fitzroy, from 7 June. Art Gallery of New South Wales (part of the Moët & Chandon Australian Art Foundation's Touring Exhibition) from 22 July.

Among the prints and drawings from the Weimar Republic touring Australia at the moment is a woodcut of a photographer in an alleyway. His target is lit up with a bulb flash. The 'decisive moment' of photojournalism is captured in the most painstaking print methods. And one of the most archaic.

Consider the irony: spending literally hours gouging away at a block of wood to make a detailed and remarkably dramatic image of a snapshooter in action. I picture an artisan fighting to preserve his craft, fighting a lost battle for its place in the print media, opposing the advent of the camera. Fighting for his craft as an art. Fighting, finally, for a human-mediated way of seeing.

Seventy-odd years later, Australian-born artist Mathew Jones has done something even more spectacularly perverse, more obsessive, and certainly more alarming. Jones has hand-drawn a facsimile of a New York tabloid. He has copied the hundred-page newspaper in its entirety: words, pictures, stories, advertisements, cartoons and horoscopes. Everything.

Did he choose the day of the moon landing? The Kennedy assassination? Nixon in China? The fall of the Berlin wall? Nope. Jones chose the day *before* the Stonewall Riots, which galvanised American gay men into making a very public stand.

There wasn't much happening on 27 June 1969. The big news was that a funeral chapel on Manhattan's upper east side had to stay open into the wee hours to accommodate the 20000 people who wished to pay their respects to Judy Garland. Oh, and Spice Is forerunners The Humming Birds did an impromptu song-and-strip on Wall Street, much to the froth-at-the-mouth ecstasy of lunching paper traders.

A year after Martin Luther King was assassinated. A month before the moon landing. Five years before homosexuality was removed from the American Psychiatric Association's official list of mental disorders. (Homosexuality by itself, the APA would state, did not *necessarily* constitute a psychiatric disorder!) Just a normal day.

Centuries after monks ceased laboriously copying the word of God, Mathew Jones has spent ten months on this gargantuan, vain, worthless task: copying the word of man. (And you won't find a shallower, more trashy tabloid to copy from this side of the Illawarra Mercury!) The ultimate irony is that Jones has then printed several thousands of copies of his drawings on webprint newspaper.

But is the task meaningless? Is it no more than an extravagant gesture?

In an age of the facsimile and computer-mediation of just about everything, including art, a human-mediated newspaper,

### AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL FOR JUDY



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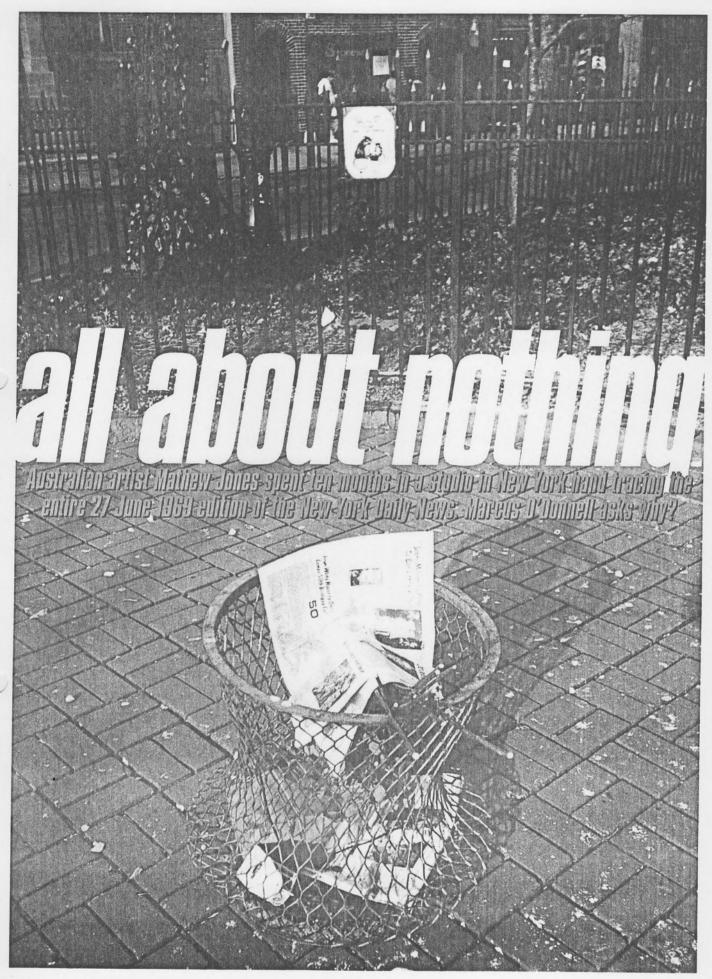
the work of a single person is an extraordinary, shining idea. But unlike the Weimar woodcutter, Jones can only claim that his newspaper is art *conceptually*. Few punters would recognise the artefact as art. But it is, unquestionably, the product of an act of art: a subversive, loony, paint-throwing act of self-immolation.

But if it gets people talking about the place of art in the world—better still fighting about it—then this extravagant gesture just might have an extravagant impact. 

Chris Boyd

Prints and Drawings of the Weimar Period Germany 1918–1933 is at the Queensland Art Gallery until 20 July.

THE BIG ISSUE 33



30 / OUTRAGE

Anyone familiar with the work of Mathew Jones would expect something unusual and provocative to arise out of the artist's 12 month sojourn in New York.

Jones is the artist who a few years ago brought us the exhibition: 'I Feel Like Chicken Tonight,' a series of abstract paintings based on boys' public school ties. His installation 'Poof', a giant explosion of pink fairy floss, dominated the entrance to the Art Gallery of NSW's Perspecta exhibition in 1995. And his blank canvases shaped as stretchers in 'Silence = Death' were one of the first serious artistic explorations of AIDS in this country.

In spite of his controversial subject matter and his unusual approach Jones is represented by

two of Australia's foremost art brokers, Jan Minchin of Melbourne's Tolarno Galleries and Roslyn Oxley of Sydney's Roslyn Oxley 8. He has participated in prestigious group shows in New York, Canada and Brazil. He was one of fourteen international artists chosen to participate in the 1996 international residency program at New York's PS1 Museum.

On his arrival in New York, Jones wanted to shift the focus of his work. He was sick of the polemical, yet didn't want to fall into the merely decorative. "I set out to do a work about nothing," he says provocatively, with the trace of a grin, perhaps a leer, breaking on his face.

In search of a subject for his work about nothing he discovered a microfiche copy of the New York *Daily News* for the day before the Stonewall riot. The banner headline of the front page is "An All-Night Vigil for Judy," which sits above a picture of two handsome policemen standing guard outside the funeral home where

Garland's body awaited burial. This front page is exactly the type of camp relic that a queen might proudly frame and place on his bedroom wall. But it is not the camp re-inscription of such imagery that concerns Jones, although with a nod and a wink, he certainly acknowledges it.

His main conceit is a big "maybe". "Maybe there is something in these pages that could have fuelled the riots, maybe there is a hint," he says. But he sets up this "maybe" as a kind of elaborate joke, almost a test. He does not subscribe to the theory voiced by some that the Stonewall riots came about because New York drag queens were so upset at the death of their Judy. But his conceit is that the Stonewall riots have a pre-history, they did not arise out of nowhere, they arose out of the everyday lives of lesbians and gay men in New York; the everyday mundane incidents reported in newspapers like the *Daily News*.

But jokes, artistic conceits and theories aside, with hindsight we can see all sorts of coincidences, all sorts of gay cyphers, all sorts of synchronicities in these pages rescued from

obscurity by Jones' painstaking labour of boredom.

There is a report of a new book about another gay idol, Jackie Kennedy, by her ex-secretary, who depicts her ex-boss as "self-indulgent, capricious and clothes crazy". All the ads for men's and women's clothing become sheer camp: "The way boys go through shirts in summer, you should stock up now," or "Go boy. Off to camp, playground or ball park, any kid looks great in Billy the Kid blue jeans. Straight leg or swinging new bellbottoms." More significantly, the film pages reveal that both *The Killing of Sister George* and Andy Warhol's *Lonesome Cowboys* were playing to great acclaim. Rex Reed calls *Sister George*, "One of those miraculous and extraordinary events in the cinema". Another critic writes of Warhol's *Cowboy*, "Maybe a bit too much for many people but that's their problem".

The original ink drawings on architectural tracing paper have a delicate aesthetic quality. Jones then printed thousands of copies on newsprint, creating an ambiguous object that immediately feels, because of its paper stock and format, like 'the real thing' but also signals its 'art' origin in its finely rendered drawing and lettering. As well as exhibiting wrapped bundles of the papers as an installation in several New York group shows, Jones placed stray copies on trains, park seats and even in waste-paper bins. He then lay in wait snapping pictures of bemused readers. News of this historical remnant surfacing all over the city even found its way into the pages of that arbiter of New York style, *The Village Voice*.

Looking at the paper of the day before Stonewall, or as Jones puts it in his title, 'The New York Daily News On The Day That Became The Stonewall Riot', is more interesting than looking at the actual news reports of the riots. We know that story only too well; it turns out to be far more intriguing to slip back under the barricades of time and play on the edge of modern gay consciousness, to look for the cyphers, the hints, the jokes that may or may not be there.

In the end, Jones found a way of dealing with nothing and something at the same time.





AN INSTALLATION OF PRINTED COPIES IS PART OF THE MOET & CHANDON FINALISTS EXHIBITION CURRENTLY TOURING NATIONALLY, AND JONES IS EXHIBITING HIS ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AND AN INSTALLATION OF PRINTED COPIES AT TOLARNO GALLERIES IN FITZROY, THROUGHOUT JUNE.

Mathew Jones the artist is no relation to the Associate Editor of OutRage of the same name.

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## Day that changed America and the world

#### **Dry Stonewalling**

June 7 - July 5, Tolarno Galleries, 121 Victoria Street, Fitzroy, Victoria

reviewed by David Langsam

If images are meant to have meaning, then Mathew Jones has opted for confusing the significance of the Stonewall Riots.

Over 10 laborious months, Jones copied by hand every page of the edition of the New York Daily News of Friday, 27 June 1969 – the day that turned into the Stonewall Riots, the catalyst for the Gay Liberation Front and the broader gay and lesbian movement.

At about one o'clock on the Saturday morning, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a Greenwich Village gay bar, and were surprised when the customers fought back, first pelting the police with coins.

The event was barely reported, save for the Village Voice, but it was possibly the signal moment in the history of modern gay rights. Over the following week, there were a further three nights of rioting in the Village.

Jones, in recreating the news of the day that became the riots, sets the scene as New York prepared the ground that would lead to gay marriages, lesbian family immigration and the acceptance rather than intolerance of a significant proportion of the population, persecuted and vilified by churches and governments of the left and right.

But the installation of thousands of copies of the Daily News from 7 June at Melbourne's Tolarno Galleries and sale of the 52 original drawings and the distribution in New York and Melbourne of individual copies of the paper are not necessarily aimed at politicising the arts world.

The newspaper doesn't mention Stonewall. The front page is devoted to the funeral of Judy Garland – enigmatically a gay icon; – and inside among the advertisements for stereos and cheap clothing are historical footnotes irrelevant to gay rights.

Yet-to-be-disgraced president Richard Nixon congratulates the Daily News on its 50th birthday, the Vietnam War, the Humming Birds (four musicians who stopped Wall Street by baring their breasts) and the movies of the day: Andy Warhol's Lonesome Cowboos and the Killing of Sister George.

Is the gay community politically arrive or more interested in the mundane things in life, just like the wider community? Does gay mean gay activist? Is Jones a gay activist or is Jones just an arrist?

Delivering the Daily News is a challenging concept and a copy of the paper (\$10 each) is accessible art, Andy would be pleased.



#### extra extra

Exhibition: Mathew Jones

Australian artist Mathew Jones has spent ten months laboriously working on his most recent project, a hand-copied edition of the New York Daily News first published on June 27, 1969—one day before the Stonewall riot.

Jones has drawn each of the newspaper's 100 pages by hand, laboriously copying ever work, image, article and advertisement. The drawings, part obsession, part ordeal, took ten months to complete, and the entire project more than a year before coming to fruition.

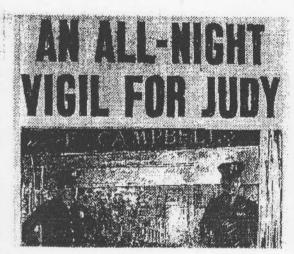
The newspaper is a record of the day before New York's infamous Stonewall Riots on Saturday, June 28, the day where a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn turned into a riot when patrons fought back. The violent clashes between gays and lesbians and the police continued for several nights, marking what has become for many the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

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Jones' newspaper art is significantly insignificant because it misses by a hair's breadth this momentous moment in history. Thousands of editions of his Daily news will be stockpiled in a gallery, creating a



monumental time capsule of the last day before the gay liberation revolution.

Locating itself somewhere between art and activism, Jones' work typically mimics artefacts of political agency—placards, stickers, newsclippings. While the work is politically charged, it is never revealed in an obvious way and is open to different interpretations.

From June 7 to July 5, copies of Jones' Daily News will be available at Tolarno Galleries, 121 Victoria Street, Fitzroy for \$10 each. The 52 original drawings will also be on exhibit and for sale.

PAGE 14 · BrotherSister Issue 133 · May 29, 1997

Edited by Steve Perkin

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Mathew Jones, Australian artist THE PARTY OF HALL & SHEET AND .

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#### Wall Street Is Jolted by a Great Exposure





mestropolitan: Mathew, allow us to tell our readers what you've been doing lately. Mathew has been copying, by hand, the entire 2T June 1969 edition of the New York Daily News newspaper. The adverrisements, pictures, stories, race-results, carroons . . . all 100 pages of it. Mathew, are you mad? What possessed you?

Jones: The area of my creativity is in that initial first step... that first decision to do it... and the absurd tenacity in that Lactually carried it

Metropolitae: So how much of the finished product is assessed by the fact that you tackled it and completed it as opposed to its artistic. worth?

Jones: Its artistic worth is in the labor of having done it. It's an absurd conceptual project

Metropolitan: Why that paper on

Metropolitan: Why that paper on that date!

Jones: By choosing a largely insignificant date, I was focusing attention on the labor of having; done it. It also reflects my lifestyle, which is gay, and one of the pivotal defining moments for the modern gay rights movement is the Stonewall riot, which happened the following day (a routine police the following day (a mutine police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, turned into a

riot when the patrons fought back. Fighting between gays and police continued for several nights).

Metropolitan: And how long did it take to copy the paper?

Jones: Ten months.

Metropolitan: Did you ever feel like tossing it in?

Jones: No. I couldn't even stand back from it until it was finished. It maintained my interest all the way through because I didn't believe exactly what I was doing. Certainly there was a stage after I'd done three or four pages when I thought this is going to take much longer than I thought.

Metropolitan: How long did you think it would take?

Jones: I don't want to tell you, but I thought it would take about six weeks.

Metropolitan: I don't suppose we could interest you in copying the entire Saturday edition of *The Age?* 

Jones: I'd contemplate it.

Metropolitan: Mathew, you are

(Mathew's newspaper and assorted works can be seen at Tolarno
Gallery, Fitzroy. Copies of the paper
are available for \$10).

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THE AGE THURSDAY 12 JUNE 1997