**Bean Bag Orchestra**

What?

Up to 100 beanbags are played in The Atrium at Federation Square.

Where?

Creative Time Summit – Art, Place, Dislocation – Melbourne live stream

Why?

Unclear/amorphous/you decide

The beanbags are a known quantity at the event. Each person who attends the Summit is invited to book a beanbag, and, if they haven’t, they are probably hoping to get their arse on to one, otherwise they’ll be standing or sitting on something cold and hard. They are booking a beanbag because they are going to be sitting for a long time, late at night, early in the morning, watching television together.

The beanbag is the furthest thing in Australia from ‘dislocation’. A beanbag is a safe place, comfortable and familiar to many of us; a remnant of the ‘70’s, a furniture icon. Even for those who are unfamiliar with the beanbag, it shouldn’t take long to understand how they work. But to be asked to play one, that is a serious break with tradition, a twisting of our normative relations with the beanbag.

The Beanbag collaboration serves as a welcome to attendees (and to other blow ins, as the case may be), as a fanfare, as an overture to the evenings’ activities…

BUT…

The unknowns are numerous; the acoustics, the number of beanbags that will be played, the number of people who will be in attendance, who will be playing them, who will be willing to play them, who will not, the schedule, where the beanbag orchestra could fit into the run sheet, the call times for beanbags and performers, rehearsal time, warm up, credits, fees & payments, costume, hair, make-up, risk assessment, lights, cameras, action.

Key requirements: a composer (see below - me) and a conductor (not me).

There is no conductor and the work hasn’t been composed but the process would go something like this:

Step 1: Stand up

Step 2: Lift your beanbag in the air

Step 3: Shake your beanbag once. A single forwards and backwards motion.

Step 4: Shake your beanbag again. Same motion as Step 3.

Step 5: Bounce your beanbag on the floor - hold the beanbag, lift it up again.

Step 6: Bounce your beanbag again. Same as Step 5.

Step 7: Bounce your beanbag again. Same as Step 5.

Step 8: Shake your beanbag eight times in a row. Shake softly at first and build slowly to a crescendo.

Step 9: Throw your beanbag down forcefully on to the floor.

Step 10: Sit down on your beanbag, with conviction. Make it loud.

**Notes on the Bean Bag Orchestra**

Additional noises to be made by beanbag interacting with human ‘player’ are unknown at this stage. If they were known, ie if they had been composed, the next step would be to play them.