



# SAWTOOTH

160 Cimitiere St, Launceston  
Po Box 1614 Launceston TAS 7250  
(03) 6331 2777  
sawtoothari@gmail.com  
www.sawtooth.org.au

## Turkey Beach

Janice Kuczkowski (ACT)

NEW MEDIA GALLERY 6 – 28 September 2013



*Image Credit: Turkey Beach (2013) Screen Shot - dual channel digital video installation*

Turkey Beach is a solo exhibition by Canberra based video artist Janice Kuczkowski. The exhibition features a silent, black-and-white, two-channel video installation, also titled Turkey Beach. Channel one of the dual video work presents us with a dream-like journey into the everyday life of the inhabitants of the small coastal fishing village of Turkey Beach. Channel two features compelling and mesmerising footage of the large-scale infrastructure and industry situated in and around Gladstone Harbour. Turkey Beach is a visual poem exploring relationships between people and the environment. It is a sympathetic portrait of people and place.

Turkey Beach is located 50km southeast of Gladstone, Queensland. The fishing village offers direct access to the southern reaches of the Great Barrier Reef. The area supports professional and recreational fishing and crabbing, which have been affected by the development of new port facilities designed to increase coal and coal seam gas exports from Gladstone Harbour. These developments may also pose a significant threat to the overall health of the Great Barrier Reef. At the same time, recreational fishing continues, and people continue to enjoy the “natural” environment even while they recognise the harm being done to marine life. The close observation of recreational fishing and crabbing practices also highlights the antagonistic relationship between humans and their environment. Turkey Beach draws subtle visual parallels between the technology and methods of the amateur fisherman and large-scale industry. Indeed, many of the recreational fishermen at Turkey Beach work, or have worked in, the Port of Gladstone.

Kuczkowski’s practice focuses on video and photographic portraiture, and employs docu-fiction and observational cinema techniques to explore the relationship between authenticity and vulnerability. Her work bridges video art and visual anthropology. She is interested in the resonance that emerges from the supposedly neutral process of observation and documentation.

Using the human body and a contemporary nostalgia for “the simple life” as a starting point, Turkey Beach explores the ways in which the behavior of an individual towards natural resources is determined as much or more by forces beyond their control as it is by internal concepts, wants and needs.

[www.janicekuczkowski.com](http://www.janicekuczkowski.com)

**Turkey Beach** (2013) dual channel digital video installation, 11 minutes 30 seconds, POA