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# australian centre for photography

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ROOM NOTES



12 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2010  
GALLERY 4

# Sleepers

Olivia Martin-McGuire

australian centre for photography

## ROOM NOTES

Sydney artist Olivia Martin-McGuire photographs her subjects at the point where consciousness finally slips away and sleep takes over. On a bed in the studio, she captures the artless choreography of sleep; the intimate way couples hold or fall against each other and the simplicity of bodies without inhibition. Martin-McGuire's images are intensely, almost unbearably, intimate. Shot on medium format in sharp detail, we are able to observe every hair on these sleepers' bodies at the moment when they are most vulnerable.

*Sleepers* forms part of a broader body of work entitled *Waking Dream States* that began with the series *China Dreaming*, developed during an artist-in-residence program in Shanghai. In each of these projects, she seeks to explore the unconscious state by observing her sleepers from the outside.

*“Those internal journeys remain private, no matter how much other people may desire know what lies inside. We can watch others, think we understand, but they may be dwelling in far away places we can never know.”* Olivia Martin-McGuire

The *Sleepers* exhibition also includes a video installation compiled from the outtakes of the studio portraits. This animated video work provides another dimension to Martin-McGuire’s subjects as they snore, toss, turn and dance their way across the screen.

Olivia Martin-McGuire is a graduate COFA, UNSW and has exhibited widely both in Australia and overseas. *China Dreaming* has been exhibited at Customs House in Sydney and The Lianzhou Photo Festival in China. She has also directed two short films which have screened nationally and internationally.