Via Ferrata (ACCA)
2012

Site specific drawing installation.
250m rope and magnets on steel building.
ACCA, Melbourne, Australia.

Via Ferrata's began as part of the war machine (WW1) developed to prosecute and
defend a war frontier (the mountain war in the Dolomites) - the frontiers that later
crystallised the borders of European states. Essentially Via Ferrata's (meaning 'iron way')
were steel cables and stemples installed as a means to access strategic summits. In this
they are implicitly connected to the 'modern' nation state, international borders and the
creation of those bounded identities. Their contemporary status now carries a weird
potential with that history - as the boundaries and solidity of that history loses
coherence and mutates to new forms and understandings. Today they offer access to a
humbling personal and social recreation - a place of jeopardy, fun, beauty and
transformation - layered over a material and cultural history that in places acts as a
museum history. Amazingly they also channel lightening strikes and audio waves from
the summit skies down to the valleys - like some strange form of atmospheric
communication.

Via Ferrata (ACCA) is a rope drawing - made insitu climbing and descending the Coreten
clad ACCA building. The rope is attached by magnets placed to maintain and shape the
position of the route.

Here the drawn line develops the Via Ferrata concept - exploring the idea of the
mountain wires as both a linear drawn line and also apparatus of borders, states and
nationhood where the line forms a shape or body. In one sense the line is a space in
itself - as it carries a trajectory - a temporal space - a period of time from the start to
finish or between any one point and another. This 'space' seems fractal in that it opens
up on itself combining the lived experience of the creative act with the record of it's own
making. This is in a connected tension with the shapes and forms the lines bound, close
around or suggests - not least the top and bottom of the wall. In this sense it connects
with Paul Klee's description of drawing - taking a line for a walk (or climb) which
acknowledges the sequential 'linear' act of drawing and the consequential forming of a
gestalt 'thing'.

'Quirky' time lapse video of the 5 day drawing (Music and edit by ACCA):
Feature / reviews:
The AGE newspaper 11/12/2012:

Shown at:

Desire Lines will also feature several key performances, including
• British artist Dan Shipsides will create one of his renowned climbing based artworks on the exterior of the ACCA building.

Desire Lines exhibiting artists:

Other Dan Shipsides / Shipsides and Beggs Projects artwork shown in Desire Lines:

*Capella Head Point (series A).* White ink on lambda photo prints.

*BIVACCO* - 2011 (HD video 21min)