

## Head of a Young Woman

3D facial scan with Polhemus Cobra Fast Scan, printed on a 3D printer and cast in bronze



One thing I like about the 3D scan is that it's like a photograph in that you scan from one perspective. So if something is occluding your object then it's shadowed and you don't get to see the back, but then you can rotate that and you can see how limited that view is.



# Sophie Kahn peers through her DIY scanner, darkly.

For the past six years Sophie has been experimenting with 3D scanning devices. After receiving an Art degree from Goldsmiths College in London, she worked as an photographer, producing images of an architectural nature. Subsequently she returned to school at RMIT University in Australia to enroll in their Spatial Information Architecture program. At this time RMIT was involved in a study of Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. This was Sophie's first experience using a 3D scanner. After departing RMIT she constructed her own DIY laser scanner at home. Last year The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center in Troy, New York, awarded her, together with choreographer Lisa Parra, a 2008 EMPAC Dance Movies Commission. Their entry, a 3D laser captured stop motion dance short, will premier there in November. The exhibit will then travel in 2010. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Sophie at the Smooch Cafe in Brooklyn and speak to her about her work.



by Chris Grayson



For me, I played with this device a lot. I played with [the Polhemus Cobra Fast Scan] as a photographer might play with a camera. And I became actually quite frustrated with the limitations of it... but when you scan a body with it you get some very interesting kind of screw-ups. So I started to exploit that. A lot... [to find] the blind-spots in the technology.



### Figure of a Young Woman, Sleeping

3D body scan, printed on a 3D printer, cast in plaster components and assembled



It's the tension between life and the representation of life... You piece it back together and try to reanimate it, it becomes something extremely different... And by submitting it to so many stages of processing, it's like taking an image and photocopying it, and then photocopying that photocopy— you see a little more of the destruction that happens.



### Untitled VI

from *Strange to Inhabit the Earth No Longer*

3D body scan on archival Lambda print



I go in purposely, without informing myself too much, and see how I can get it wrong.

