

Alin Huma & Cheiko Kawaguchi

IOU

2003

digital photographic print

30 x 21cm

Purchased 2003

IOU is a collaborative artist book made by photographer-publisher Alin Huma and dancer-performer Cheiko Kawaguchi while they were a couple living in and between Perth and Tokyo. Arranged as a kind of intentionally stilted fashion shoot, Cheiko stuffs herself into, or her drapes herself over, abandoned white goods as if mirroring roadside detritus. The unglamorous forms she makes, along with the low-fi printing technique of the book, sees the work unravelling ideals and conventions of beauty. As well as charting the toll of the fashion industry on the female form, *IOU* questions the circumstances in which beauty might be found in or constructed under—proposing that it might be at its most radical, and unexpectedly, alluring in the most marginal of places.

Alin Huma was born in Romania in 1968. He currently lives and works in Melbourne. Working with photography and publishing, Huma's highly formal and conceptual-based practice makes visible the struggles and the beauty of human existence in all its ambivalence and ambiguity. Huma has exhibited and published internationally, including presentation at Sibiu, Romania (2004); Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne (2007); and Yadoya, Tokyo (2007). In 2012, his work was featured in *Hijacked III: Contemporary Photography from Australia & the UK* at the Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney; Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts; and The Quad, Derby.

Cheiko Kawaguchi was born in 1976 in Japan. Maintaining a solo practice as a dancer-performer, Kawaguchi has previously collaborated with Alin Huma on several projects including the artist book and large-scale photo installation, *IOU* for the exhibition *mix tape* at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 2004.