

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

Barcode People

SURPLUS PLEASURE:
LOAD FROM LAST
CHECKPOINT.DAT

AUGUST

23.07.26–16.08.26

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12 – 5pm, Thursday – Friday
12 – 4pm, Saturday – Sunday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

STRAY VOLTAGE

Barcode People

Surplus Pleasure: Load from last checkpoint.dat

Surplus Pleasure: Load from last checkpoint.dat stacks fragmented retro video game footage into the rhythm of a late-night TV infomercial.

It dwells on “surplus pleasure”, a subject often addressed by Slavoj Žižek, for whom enjoyment is never in the thing itself but in the excess that clings to it. Mirrored in these games, marked by jagged graphics, jerky camera movements, and clumsy navigation shaped by limited computational power, human experience is constrained, repetitive, and negotiated through limitation.

Rather than striving for final enlightenment, *Load from last checkpoint.dat* lingers in cycles of return and persistence, where being is continuously reloaded: fragmented and imperfect.

Artwork details:

Surplus Pleasure: Load from last checkpoint.dat, 2026, single-channel video, 00:04:15.

Barcode People (Qihao Liang & Tong Shu) is a creative duo based in Naarm/Melbourne, syncing hyper-surrealism with immersive digital expression. Their practice instantiates uncanny presence through post-internet aesthetics, rendered through performance, installation, gaming simulation, and video works.