

MEDIA RELEASE



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10 April 2018

Mosman Art Gallery announces three diverse new exhibitions for April-July 2018

Mosman Art Gallery is thrilled to present the work of 13 established contemporary artists in three new exhibitions featuring photography, video installation, and sculpture from **21 April - 1 July 2018**.

The suite of exhibitions includes a travelling exhibition from the Monash Gallery of Art (MGA), Melbourne, titled ***Australian Exotica***, which features a selection of works from MGA's nationally significant collection of Australian photographs. The exhibition showcases a range of photographic work that engages with the theme of the exotic antipodes.

Ever since the fifteenth century, when European cartographers began including the contour of Terra Australis Incognita ('the unknown land of the south') in their speculative maps of the globe, the continent of Australia has been thought of as an exotic place. For many of the artists in this exhibition, this European vision is something that needs to be subverted and critiqued. For others, the idea of living in an eccentric environment, with surreal undertows, continues to inform a distinctively Australian sense of place.

The exhibition includes some of Australia's most internationally regarded artists including **Brook Andrew, Michael Cook, Destiny Deacon, Peter Dombrovskis, Marian Drew, Leah King-Smith, Joseph McGlennon, Tracey Moffatt, Darren Siwes, Robyn Stacey** and **Christian Bumburra Thompson**.

In The Cube, the Gallery's dedicated exhibition space for video and experimental art, Sydney-based **Khaled Sabsabi** presents ***Organised Confusion***. The 2014 video installation explores the socio-political construction of the mass demonstration and dance as heightened states of consciousness and fanaticism. It looks at very different modes as carefully orchestrated movements and displays, carried out en masse and by individuals. The work reveals parallels between induced heightened psychological states and common ways in which people behave physically.

Lebanese-born Sabsabi is known for his mixed media and site-specific installations which have been included in over 78 solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including the current Biennale of Sydney. When describing his practice, Sabsabi states "*I make work that interrogates the complexities of multicultural Australia in relation to its past, present and future. I also make work that highlights alternative views and voices, and challenges passive media consumption.*"

As part of its ongoing program of exhibitions featuring local artists, the Gallery is pleased to present the work of sculptor **Stephen Coburn**. In ***The Road to Tribal Sun***, Coburn reflects on the imagery that has informed his art practice over many years, as well as visual iconography which connects to his major sculpture *Tribal Sun* which has been on display in the Gallery's forecourt since 2013. This work, and the sculptural pieces and drawings featured in this new exhibition, are based on an ancient tribal village totem which Coburn's father, the late abstract painter John Coburn, also took inspiration from.

Coburn's creative interests began by building models as a child growing up in Sydney's Northern Beaches. He later studied sculpture and painting at the National Art School where he became the

original bass player for the internationally recognised band 'Mental As Anything'. As a visual artist he has participated in many solo and group exhibitions of painting and sculpture in Australia, Hong Kong and the United States. When describing his practice, Coburn says "*My subject has always been my environment, through landscape and place. The poetry of eternity and location. Every place has a past and present and will have a future.*"

The three exhibitions will be opened by Anouska Phizacklea, Director, Monash Gallery of Art on Friday 20 April at 6.30pm.

Public Program

Curatorial Conversations - Australian Exotica

Saturday 21 April, 3-4pm

Join Anouska Phizacklea and Robyn Stacey, one of Australia's most acclaimed contemporary photographers, in conversation with the Gallery's Senior Curator, Katrina Cashman. The conversation will traverse the imagery and ideas presented in the Australian Exotica exhibition with a special focus on Robyn Stacey's celebrated art practice and her recent works.

Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/369879

April-July 2018 Exhibitions

Where: MOSMAN ART GALLERY, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman 2088

On View: Saturday 21 April – Sunday 1 July 2018

Opening Night: Friday 20 April, 6.30pm

Gallery Hours: Open 7 days, 10am – 5pm (Closed public holidays)

Admission: Free

www.mosmangallery.org.au



Media contact

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