

Monumental

Amrita Hepi

Gertrude Contemporary
Saturday 6 February - Sunday 28 March 2021

Monuments are dialectical. Central pillars that seep into the periphery. Like the horizon line they are steadfast informants of space - stable, grand, expansive and looming. Continuously being built, and yet continuously being rinsed out by retrospective, inertia and rain.

Monumental is a new suite of works by Amrita Hepi that casts a central colonial figure within a continual sunrise... or is it a sunset? Through performance the monument is serenaded by sound and dance, then destroyed by paddles and cricket bats, and finally replaced by seven people. By creating a dreamscape of dance and demise, Hepi sets her sights on the historical archive of colonial monuments, making them bodily once more.

Monumental was made in January 2020; and kept alive in spirit, action, song and dance through a pandemic; while other monuments around the world began to fall and were decommissioned.

Amrita Hepi is an award-winning First Nations choreographer and dancer from Bundjulong (Aus) and Ngāpuhi (NZ) territories. Her mission as an artist is to push the barriers of intersectionality in form and make work that establishes multiple access points through allegory. Her practice at present is interested in forms of hybridity - especially those that arise under empire. An artist with a broad following and reach, her work has taken various forms (film, performance, sculpture, text, lecture, participatory installation), but always begins with the body as a point of archive, memory, dance and resistance.

This project was supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

List of works

1. Amrita Hepi

Monumental, 2021

HD video, performance, expanding foam
5 minutes

Artist / Choreographer: Amrita Hepi

Producer: Zoe Theodore

Performers: Sarah Aitken,
Ngioka Bunda-Heath, Sammy Hammat,
Amrita Hepi, Jessie Oshodi,
Michaela Ottone, Luigi Vescio

Director / Editor: Sntoung Nguyen

Film Production: Silky Jazz Films

Director of Photography: Joey Knox

Sound Composition: Daniel Janatsch

Colour Grade: Abe Wynen

Production Designer: Aleisa Jelbart

1st AC: Bonita Carzino

Gaffer: Akash Vijayakumar

Production Coordinator: Erik North

Production Officer: Tim McLeod

Special thanks to RMIT Design Hub.

Courtesy of the artist.

