

Ode to the 'ō'ō

Mikala Dwyer

Gertrude Glasshouse

Friday 28 May - Saturday 3 July 2021

Mikala Dwyer in collaboration with composer James Hayes, present *Ode to the 'ō'ō* a sound and sculptural work in the Gertrude Glasshouse space. Carceral-like architectures of animal captivity are suggested through the use of sound. Expanding on the artist's recent investigations into apparitions, this new body of work explores ideas of reanimation and extinction. Expanding on the show's context, Dwyer describes:

The 'ō'ō bird sang a last song to its mate in the 1980s. This sad song with no reply conjures many ghosts as extinctions rise and fall through the richly haunted deep time of this earth. Here I try to imagine a zoo for the supernatural populated by residues both avian and human. Electricity, colour, light, sound, magnetic fields, imprints on the ether as we dissolve into particles of memory or data. Trapped in our grid of reason, I imagine escape routes that can bend and dissolve bars, lines and geometries. Birds always remind me of escape, airborne into mesmerizing swarms guided by magnetic fields. Seeing things we have lost the ability to imagine.

Dwyer is a Sydney-born, Melbourne-based artist and studied sculpture and sound art at the Sydney College of the Arts, prior to postgraduate studies at College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Middlesex Polytechnic, London, and Berlin University of the Arts. In addition to their role as Associate Professor of Fine Arts at RMIT University, Dwyer is an established and respected contemporary practitioner working across sculpture, painting and performance. Dwyer's work has been profiled with survey exhibitions at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (2017) and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (2015). Major solo presentations include Earthcraft, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery | Len Lye Centre (2019), Goldene Bend'er, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (2013), and Drawing Down the Moon, Institute of Modern Art (2012).

Dwyer is represented by Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney and Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington.

Mikala Dwyer

Ode to the 'ō'ō, 2021

Dimensions variable

Sound, lighting gels, dichroic film, acrylic, magnetite, gaffer tape, clay, bird baths, bird nests, single-channel video, bird seed, bandages, plastic, sequins, coins, sticks, water, bird shit.

Gertrude Glasshouse is generously supported by Michael Schwarz and David Clouston.

The 2021 Gertrude Glasshouse exhibition program is supported by The City of Yarra.



Gertrude Contemporary acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.