

Stupid As **Curated by Alex Gawronski**

Hany Armanious, Alex Gawronski, Ronnie van Hout, MP Hopkins, Sean Kerr, Cescon & Donovan, Del Lumanta, Michelle Nikou, Jelena Telecki, Justene Williams, Salote Tawale and The Estate of Quinto Sesto

Gertrude Contemporary
Saturday 20 April - Sunday 2 June 2024

Generally, in our daily lives we do our best not to be, or to appear, stupid. Despite this, or maybe because of the unspoken normal/ising imperative it suggests, artists are one of the few groups who have openly embraced the generative possibilities of stupidity. Many artists in fact have seen stupidity as an affective force, embracing failure, mistakes, elisions, satire, parody, slapstick, mimicry and the absurd as part of a much wider assault on (common) "sense."

Dr Alex Gawronski is a contemporary artist working across multiple media as well as a writer and independent gallerist. He has a particular interest in the implications of galleries and museums as cultural sites of spatial and socio-political contestation. Gawronski's PhD, *No New Utopia: The Crisis of Art as Critique Under Globalisation* was awarded by the University of Sydney in 2006. Gawronski has exhibited widely nationally and internationally, including at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney, and Carriageworks as part of The National. He operates the artist run initiative ethan frome (ex-KNULP) in Eora Sydney.

Gertrude would like to acknowledge and thank our generous supporters, patrons, sponsors and programming partners whose support enables us to continue building the careers of Australia's contemporary artists.

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Sean Kerr acknowledges the support of Te Waka Tūhura Elam School of Fine Arts, Waipapa Taumata Rau Univeristy of Auckland.

Alex Gawronski acknowledges the support of the Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

List of works

1. Cescon & Donovan
Erection of the Uprights, 2024
HD video
Duration: 5 minutes 7 seconds
Courtesy of the artists
2. Del Lumanta & MP Hopkins
No need to sit on the fence when you are already committed to living on your knees, 2024
Audio recorder, written instructions
Courtesy of the artists
3. Ronnie van Hout
Looking Back, 2024
Painted resin, wigs, clothing, wooden table, two single channel videos - Super 8 transferred to 4k digital
Courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight, Eora Sydney; and Station, Naarm Melbourne
4. Justene Williams
If I'm Going to Hell You're Coming with Me, 2023
Recycled performance prop, mannequins, paint, shoes, mobile phones, video, charging cables, Frozen mask
180 x 120 x 120 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Sarah Cottier Gallery, Eora Sydney
5. Hany Armanious
Version of the Father (Shitting a Foot), 2023
Pigmented polyurethane resin, gouache
Dimensions overall: 15 x 120 x 42cm
3 parts: 12 x 21 x 24 cm, 15 x 26 x 36 cm, 12 x 19 x 31 cm
Unique
Courtesy of the artist and Fine Arts, Eora Sydney
6. Michelle Nikou
Blood Plastic and the Goldilocks Region, 2024
Cast resin
Dimensions variable

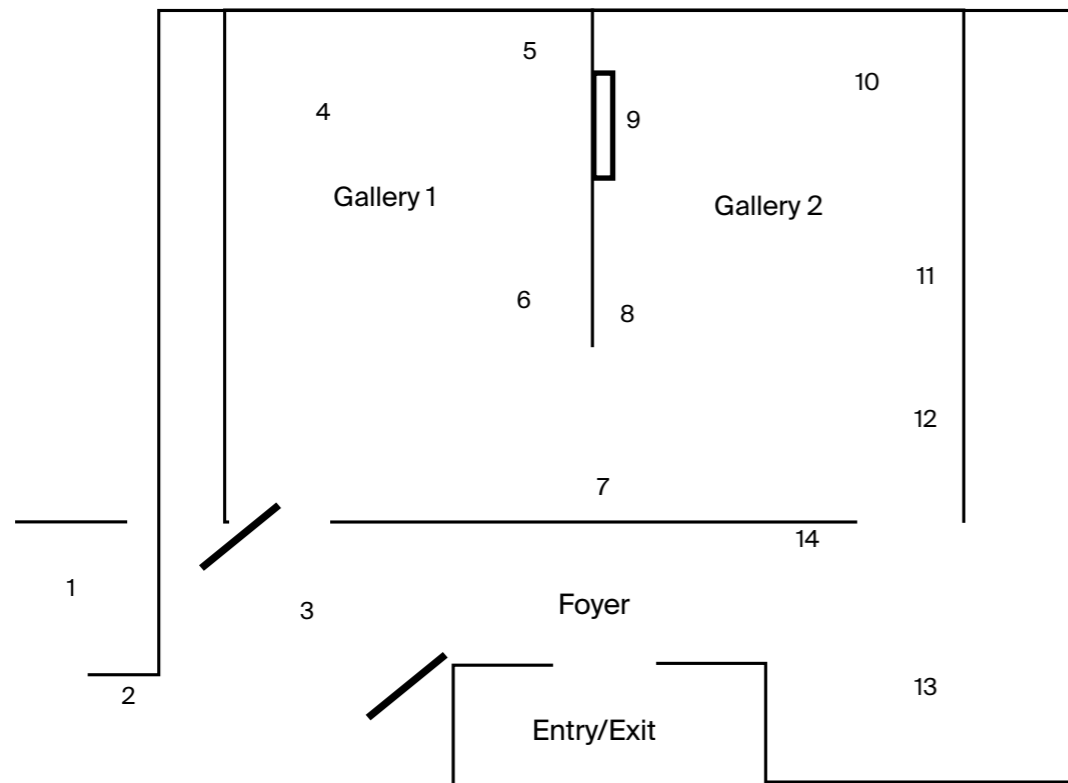
Michelle Nikou
Bone of Man, Woman and Child, 2024
Cast tin and found spoons
Dimensions variable

Michelle Nikou
The End is in the Beginning, 2023
Cast resin and found plastic bottle lids
Dimensions variable

All works courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Eora Sydney
7. Alex Gawronski
Order Board, 2024
Felt, timber, aluminium, plastic, enamel
112 x 180 cm
Courtesy of the artist
8. Del Lumanta
Albanese Time Machine, 2024
Sound, audio recorders
18.5 x 17 x 4 cm
Courtesy of the artist
9. Quinto Sesto
Various archival materials and reproductions, 1975 - 1976
Courtesy of the Estate of Quinto Sesto
10. Sean Kerr
Ba-Dum-Tiss, 2024
Unity 3D AI API, Arduino, actuators, snare drum, cymbol
Courtesy of the artist
11. MP Hopkins
A Fascist Crying Themselves To Sleep, 2024
Pencil and pen on paper collage

MP Hopkins
Extinction 3, 2024
Black and white photocopy
59.4 x 42 cm

MP Hopkins
Extinction 1 & Extinction 2, 2024
Black and white photocopies
2 parts (each 59.4 x 42 cm)
All works courtesy of the artist
12. Jelena Telecki
Leaders of Men (Reach the dumb to fool the crowd), 2024
Oil on polyester
Diptych (each piece 56 x 45.5 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and 1301SW, Naarm Melbourne
13. Salote Tawale
On Holiday, 2023
Acrylic paint on board
164 x 122 x 71 cm
Courtesy of the artist
14. Quinto Sesto
Various archival materials and reproductions, 1975 - 1976
Courtesy of the Estate of Quinto Sesto



Gertrude acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters on which we operate. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their ancestors and Elders – past, present, and future.