

VARIABLE TRUTH

TONY ALBERT, BROOK ANDREW, MELISSA HOWE, ROSLISHAM ISMAIL (ISE), MICHAEL LEE, GREG SEMU, ALEXANDER SETON, TIM SILVER, TONY TWIGG

25 May - July 2012

Variable Truth examines alternative aesthetic and conceptual trajectories in contemporary art based upon close readings of Australian art and social history. The exhibition includes Australian and international artists who examine the Asia-Pacific Region to inform an expanded understanding of their own historical trajectories.

In recent history, Australia's cultural environment has experienced drastic shifts due to increased awareness of cultural diversity, globalisation and the impact of emerging economic powerbases. Alongside these significant changes, are the precedents of artists such as Ian Fairweather, who looked internationally for cross-cultural fertilisation.

The works presented in *Variable Truth* reflect the conceptual approach of artists like Fairweather, offering alternative perspectives on internationalism in contemporary Australian art and society.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



About the Artists

Tony Albert (b. 1981, Australia) is a Brisbane based artist who's family comes from Cardwell in Far North Queensland. Albert's work draw from popular culture as well as personal family and historic archives that reference Indigenous cultural, social and political issues, challenging preconceived stereotypes and assumptions. Be Deadly is inspired by Albert's own positive role models growing up. It was created as part of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (2011) to celebrate youth. Albert received a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane in 2004. Albert has exhibited his work internationally including Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2011); City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand, and Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea (2010) and in The 10th Havana Biennial (2009), Cuba. In Australia he has exhibited at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art (2011) and is represented in the collections of Australian institutions including the National Gallery of Australia and Gallery of Modern Art – Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane.

Brook Andrew (b. 1970, Australia) is a Melbourne based artist of Wiradjuri and Scottish descent who works in a range of media from neon, installation, photo-media, performance and video to highlight cultural and historical perception. His recent projects include Travelling Colony (2012) as part of Sydney Festival and Jumping Castle War Memorial (2010) at the Biennale of Sydney (2010). He has also exhibited in group exhibitions across Korea, Beijing, the Netherlands and Belgium. Brook Andrew was the recipient of the Australia Council ISCP residency, New York City (2008-09), South Project at Museo de Arte Contemporáneo residency, Santiago (2006) and Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship (2001).

Melissa Howe (b. Australia) is a Sydney based artist with an architectural background who incorporates elements of the built environment, architectural practice and photography in site specific installations. The Deconstruction and Reconstruction of the Family House (2010) is a meticulous reconstruction of her family home, built in the 1970s just outside Canberra. The work captures a moment when internationalism in architecture was adopted by suburban Australia. Howe graduated with a Bachelor of Design in Architecture (2004) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from COFA, Sydney. She received the Giclee Australia/Airport North Gallery Award for the Best Performance in Photomedia, COFA Annual Awards (2010) and Epsom Award for Best Performance in Photomedia, COFA Annual Awards (2008).
Roslsham Ismail aka Ise (b.1972, Malaysia) is a conceptual artist whose work centers on his personal experience of urban communities and describes his modus operandi as 'making friends and talking to people'. His practice often utilises an extensive network of collaborators all over the world that he calls his 'superfriends'. For Jalan Jalan Makan Angin, Ise developed a project that explored the ethnic Chinese Malaysian and Singaporean migrant communities who work as vegetable sellers at Paddy's Market. His previous projects include the popular Secret Affair installation at the Singapore Biennale (2011) which explored a cross section of Singaporean domestic lives through an installation of six refrigerators storing groceries that the participating families would normally buy. In 2006, he was the Australian High Commission, artist in residence at the Gunnery Studio, Art Space, Sydney and was part of the Istanbul Biennale (2005) with Indonesia collaborative Ruangrupa. For more information on his project in Variable Truth visit the project blog jalanjalanmakanangin.tumblr.com

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Michael Lee (b. 1971, Singapore) is based between Berlin and Singapore. Lee approaches architecture from a conceptual perspective exploring the narratives and utopian vision connected to architecture and urban space. In his series, *After Humans*, Lee has created a fictional world based on a speculation of loss. Architectural models are employed as a comment on what would remain of human civilization in the aftermath of total devastation. He received his Master (2001) and Bachelor of Communication Studies (1997) from Nanyang Technological University. He has held solo exhibitions at Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong (2010); Baba House, Singapore (2008) and Alliance Francaise de Singapour, Singapore (2004). He has been included in major group exhibitions such as the Asia Triennial Manchester (2011), Singapore Biennale (2011), Shanghai Biennale (2010), Guangzhou Triennial (2011) and (2008). Lee received the People's Choice Award at APBF Signature Art Prize (2011), Singapore Art Museum, and the Young Artist Award (Visual Arts) (2005), National Arts Council, Singapore.

Greg Semu (b. 1971, New Zealand) is a Sydney based artist who's work portrays histories of the Pacific, responding to colonialism and cultural reappropriation through highly stylised photographs and installations. His works in *Variable Truth* developed out of residencies at Centre Culturel Tjibaou, ADCK in Noumea, New Calendoncia in 2010 and at the Musée du quai Branly, Paris in 2007. Semu has exhibited across France, Germany, Taiwan and Australia and has been curated in this year's 7Th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland. His work is held in the collection of the Musée du Quai Brandy in Paris, Queensland Art Gallery, and TePapa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Wellington.

Alexander Seton (b.1977, Australia) is a Sydney based sculptor. Since 2011 his practice has included works containing flags as a comment on notions of nationhood, empire and politics. He has exhibited in numerous sculpture exhibitions over the years, including *Sculpture by the Sea* four times since 2002 and The Helen Lempriere Sculpture Award (2006) and won the Woollahra Sculpture Prize (2009). Seton has participated in international sculpture symposiums including Hanyu International Sculpture Cup, Shenzhen, China (2007) and a number of solo exhibitions, including *Security Blanket* (2011) at Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, and *Memeoid* (2008) and *Panoply* (2007) at Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney.

Tim Silver (b. Australia) is a Sydney based artist who's sculptures crafted from fragile and ephemeral materials question permanence in a process which involves erosion and decomposition. In his arresting photographic series *Coming Round Again* (2009) in *Variable Truth* Silver has documented the various stages of an object's decay. Silver is a graduate of COFA completing his Master of Fine Arts (Research) in 2004. Silver's work has been curated exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2010, 2005), Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth (2003), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2003), Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2003), as well as internationally in Malaysia, Japan and Denmark. Silver's work was recently included in *Parallel Collisions*, 2012 Adelaide Biennial.

Tony Twigg (b. Australia) is known for his multi-disciplinary practice. In *Variable Truth*, Tony Twigg presents work which responds to interpretations of Ian Fairweather's *Anak Bayan* (1957) held in the Art Gallery of NSW Collection. Twigg has held extensive solo exhibitions across Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, and has been included in group exhibitions across Australia, Asia and Europe. In 2009 a monograph on Twigg was published that explored the influence of South East Asia on his practice. He will complete a Red Gate Residency in Beijing, China in late 2012. Twigg is represented in major collections in Australia and the Philippines including the National Gallery of Australia, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila, Ben Cab Museum, and University of Philippines Los Baños Collection as well as private and corporate collections internationally.

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Ground Floor

Roslisham Ismail aka Ise

Jalan Jalan Makan Angin (2012) Mixed media installation

Courtesy of the artist

Visit the project blog :

jalanjalanmakanangin.tumblr.com

Jalan Jalan Makan Angin is an initiative of the 4A Chinatown Mapping Project and has been supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

Brook Andrew

Flowchart (2011)

Rare Postcards, sapele and neon 283 x 449.5 x 8.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist

First Floor

Alexander Seton

No Surrender (2011)

Blanco, marble, eyelets, wlc, steel halyard

50 x 30 x 4 cm

On loan from private collection, Sydney.

Courtesy of the artist and Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney.

Lucky Me (2011)

Blanco, marble, eyelets, wlc, steel halyard

50 x 30 x 4 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane

Colour Rendition Chart (2011)

Blanco, marble, eyelets, wlc, steel, halyard

50 x 30 x 4 cm

Private collection, Sydney.

Courtesy of the artist and Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney.

First Floor

Michael Lee

After Humans (2011)

Top row (L-R): Giza; Dutch; Ben; Empire; Pisa; Arab; Sydney

Middle row (L-R): Opera; Chrysler; Mahal (Beloved); Peter; Eiffel; Geongbok (Shining Happiness); Triumph

Bottom row (L-R): Rock; Petronas; Pieta; Basil; Liberty; Parthe; Tian'an (Heavenly Peace)

Giclée prints on archival paper

42 x 52.5cm (set of 21)

Courtesy of the artist

Tony Twigg

Ian Fairweather: Tourist and Ethnographer (2012) Mixed media installation

Variable

Courtesy of the artist

Greg Semu

The Assassination of Atai (2010)

Digital print on PVC back-lit canvas

Courtesy of the artist

The artist would like to acknowledge

Centre Culturel Tjibaou, ADCK, Nouméa, New Caledonia

The Head of John the Baptist III (2010) Single channel video installation

Courtesy of the artist

The artist would like to acknowledge

Musée du quai Branly, Paris

First Floor

Melissa Howe

The Deconstruction and Reconstruction of the Family House and Home (2010)

Exterior (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76cm
Courtesy of the artist

Family Room (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Kitchen (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Entry (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Sectional Model 1 - Scale 1:20 (2010)
Archival pigment print and cardboard
28 h x 57 w x 23.5 d cm
Courtesy of the artist

Lounge Room (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Dining Room and Laundry (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Sectional Model 2 - Scale 1:20 (2010)
Archival pigment print and cardboard
30 h x 57 w x 22.5 d cm
Courtesy of the artist

Bedroom 1 (2010)
Archival pigment print 60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Bedroom 2 and 3 (2010)
Archival pigment print
60 x 76 cm
Courtesy of the artist

Sectional Model 3 - Scale 1:20 (2010)
Archival pigment print and cardboard
23.5 h x 57 w x 13.5 d cm
Courtesy of the artist

Sectional Model 1 - Entry detail (2010)
Archival pigment print and cardboard
Courtesy of the artist

Sectional Model 1 - Kitchen detail (2010) Archival pigment print and cardboard
Courtesy of the artist
Torunn Higgins

House model - Scale 1:50
Exterior (2010) Archival pigment print and cardboard
17.5 h x 48 w x 36.5 d cm
Courtesy of the artist

First Floor

Tony Albert

Be Deadly – I AM YOU ARE WE ARE (2011-2012)

Acrylic, collage elements and mixed media print
with Silver leaf on paper

140x100cm

Courtesy of the artist, Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney

Be Deadly - Father (2011-2012)

Acrylic, collage elements and mixed media print
with Silver leaf on paper

140x100cm

Courtesy of the artist, Ravinder Singh and
Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney

Tim Silver

Coming Round Again (2009)

Untitled (ginger Rolex watch)

Untitled (chilli-flake Pentax binoculars) Untitled
(cinnamon Havaianas thong) Untitled (tin Yale
lock)

Untitled (pepper Evian bottle)

Untitled (sandalwood Sony remote)

Untitled (mace A&M eyewear)

Untitled (mixed TDK tapes)

Untitled (ginger Croc shoe)

Untitled (turmeric Phillips lightbulb)

Untitled (nutmeg Coke can)

All works:

Archival ink on 100% cotton silver rag

28 x 37 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Breenspace, Sydney

Variable Truth
Tony Albert, Brook Andrew, Melissa Howe, Roslisham Ismail aka Ise, Michael
Lee, Greg Semu, Alexander Seton, Tim Silver, Tony Twigg
25 May - 14 July 2012

Curator: Aaron Seeto
Assistant Curator, Jalan Jalan Makan Angin:
Toby Chapman
Curatorial Assistant: Samuel Zammit



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