

FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTWORK LABELS

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Contemporary Photography in the NGV Collection

Photography is one of the most prolific areas of contemporary practice, encompassing work by artists who see themselves in the more traditional role of 'photographer', as well as work by multidisciplinary artists. In recent years the NGV has been actively acquiring Australian and international contemporary photography, building a collection that features work by artists based in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, in addition to those in Europe, North America, Australia and the Pacific region.

The works shown here reflect a diversity of concerns and interests; however, several overarching themes emerge. The significance of place is a recurrent subject. Whereas in the work of Richard Mosse, Pieter Hugo and Inigo Manglano-Ovalle history and politics collide in their chosen locations, for Derek Henderson and Danny Singer landscapes hold more overtly personal significance. Explorations of personal memory and identity inform the works of Sophie Calle and Trent Parke, while the work of artists such as Atul Dodiya and Adel Abidin is underpinned by the idea of collective memory. The relationship between photography and performance is evident in the whimsical works of Steve Carr and Ceal Floyer, and spectacle abounds in the large-scale photographs and installations by Carsten Höller and Polly Borland.

Adel Abidin

Iraq born 1973, worked in Finland 2001–

Three love songs

2010

three channel colour video, sound,

8 hr 41 min (looped)

ed. 2/5

Yvonne Pettengell Bequest, 2013

2013.780

Adel Abidin explores ideas of cultural alienation, gender and war through works in a range of media, including sculpture, photography and installation. His works play with stereotypical Western ideas of the East, and explore the complexities of relationships between culture, politics, and identity. *Three love songs* juxtaposes stereotypical images of female performers with a deceptively seductive soundtrack. Abidin brings together both terror and love, as the pleasant sounds and attractive facade are manipulated by the words being sung (and subtitled in English); songs commissioned by Saddam Hussein that were used to glorify the regime during the decades of his rule.

Polly Borland

Australia born 1959

Untitled (Nick Cave in a blue wig)

2010

type C photograph

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2012

2012.333

The subject of Polly Borland's photograph is Australian musician, writer and filmmaker Nick Cave. In this image, the well-known musician is photographed wearing a body stocking, cheap theatrical costume, heavy make-up and a striking blue wig. Although his identity is almost completely obscured, the portrait is compelling in its strange otherworldliness. Discussing the process of being photographed by Borland, Cave wrote, '[She] knows that the camera gives me the creeps. What she is also aware of is that no camera gives me the creeps quite as much as one with Polly Borland behind it'.

Sophie Calle

France born 1953

The giraffe

from the *Les Autobiographies* series 2012

2012

type C photograph, gelatin silver photograph

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.578

The giraffe is from Calle's *Les Autobiographies* series in which the artist references her fantasies, childhood memories and personal history. The text that can be seen in this work translates as, 'When my mother died I bought a stuffed giraffe, installed it in my studio and named it Monique. It regarded me from high up, with sadness and irony'. In contrast to the initially absurd appearance of the giraffe, Calle's text reveals the deeply personal, autobiographical nature of the elements within this image. It is an intimate picture of loss and vulnerability, and reflects on her relationship with her mother.

Steve Carr

New Zealand born 1976

Smoke bubble #01

2016

inkjet print

ed. 1/3

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

2016.432

Steve Carr

New Zealand born 1976

Smoke bubble #02

2016

inkjet print

ed. 1/3

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

2016.433

Steve Carr

New Zealand born 1976

Smoke bubble #08

2016

inkjet print

ed. 1/3

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

2016.434

Steve Carr's practice encompasses performance, sculpture, photography and film. He often combines these disciplines to create visual narratives of poetic beauty, which are also disarmingly modest in their references to overlooked objects and rituals of everyday life. Experimental and performative in nature, these images were created through the simultaneous blowing of bubbles and puffs of smoke, with the photograph capturing the fleeting moment when the smoke particles have become momentarily entrapped in the globular walls of the bubble.

Chi Peng

China born 1981

Apollo in transit

2005

type C photograph

ed. 2/12

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2006

2006.365

Unfurling like a traditional Chinese scroll, Chi Peng's work shows the reactions of a disparate variety of onlookers watching the headlong flight of a naked man running past the wall of the Forbidden City in Beijing. This theatrically constructed image brings together potent symbols of traditional and contemporary life in China.

Thomas Demand

Germany born 1964

Cuttings

2014

pigment prints

ed. 14/18

Suzanne Dawbarn Bequest, 2015

2015.394.1-6

Thomas Demand is known for the elaborate paper sets he builds and photographs. In this work, Demand shows what appears to be coloured paper shapes on a wooden floor. These colourful arrangements reference the late cut-paper works of Henri Matisse. In keeping with his practice, both the 'cut-outs' and the floor here are made of paper, and Demand predetermines the view we see in his final photograph. In this instance, he shows us offcuts of paper that have fallen to the floor in seemingly random patterns, leaving us to speculate on what the final collage may look like.

Atul Dodiya

India born 1959

The hero (for Sumitra)

2012–13

gelatin silver photograph, type C photograph, found objects

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.40

Atul Dodiya's work shows his interest in politics, art history, folklore and Indian and North American popular culture. In this large-scale, wall-based installation, he combines a rich interplay of historical and personal archives. It includes framed photographs that reference various historical moments, ranging from major figures in twentieth-century art to the ocean liner QEII, and an eclectic assembly of found objects. Adopting a *wunderkammer* or 'cabinet of curiosity' methodology of display, this installation continues the artist's interest in assemblage as a way of exploring how such objects and images can become part of collective memory and inform people's lives.

Kota Ezawa

Germany born 1969

The Irascibles

2013

silver gelatin print

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2014

2014.547

Ceal Floyer

Britain, born Pakistan 1968, worked in Germany 1997–

The answer

2015

inkjet print on aluminium and polyethylene
ed. 3/6

Ruth Margaret Frances Houghton Bequest, 2016

2016.113

Ceal Floyer's work explores the absurd in the everyday. Peripheral objects and gestures are isolated and re-presented in a new context. Her titles often include a pun or double entendre, and in this work, *The answer*, it is unclear if indeed an answer is being offered or sought. It is a spare, highly refined image that elevates the sometimes frenetic action associated with knowing the answer to one of elegant simplicity.

Adam Fuss

England born 1961, lived in Australia
1962–82, United States 1982–

Caduceus

from the *Home and the world* series 2010

2010

gelatin silver photogram, canvas

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2011

2011.359

Adam Fuss is known for making photograms – camera-less images made by placing objects directly onto photographic paper. In this work, he has used a long pole and live snakes to recreate an elegant, living caduceus, a symbol that is found in both ancient and contemporary cultures. Across cultures, the snake is recognised as a powerful deity. In the contemporary Western tradition, the caduceus is most often seen as a symbol of medicine.

Hai Bo

China born 1962

I am Chairman Mao's Red Guard

2000

type C photograph

ed. 9/18

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.550

In Hai Bo's photographs, studio portraits made in China during the Cultural Revolution are paired with images made around the end of the twentieth century. The paired portraits chart the ageing process and illustrate the cultural shifts that have occurred over this period. This work shows an image of a young woman in the 1960s proudly wearing her Red Guard uniform and holding *Mao's Little Red Book*. In counterpoint, the contemporary image of the same person shows a smiling middle-aged woman wearing a floral dress, a garment that would have been unthinkable, and unattainable, forty years earlier.

Hai Bo

China born 1962

Wood horse

1999

gelatin silver photograph

ed. 16/20

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.551

Derek Henderson

New Zealand born 1963

Ratana church, Te Puke Marae, Ohakune to Raetihi Road, Raetihi, Rangitikei, Wanganui. 6-49pm, 10th March 2005

2005, printed 2016

from *The terrible boredom of paradise* series 2005

type C photograph

ed. 5/15

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2017

Prompted by memories of his childhood, Derek Henderson's photographs from *The terrible boredom of paradise* series show landscapes and architecture seen on a road trip around New Zealand. The site and the exact moment the photographs were taken are recorded in the works' titles, emphasising the diaristic and documentary nature of the works. Shot in isolated, semirural locations, and featuring humble and mundane sites, the images create an 'anti-heroic' view of New Zealand seen through a landscape that is not only sublime but also quite banal and desolate.

Derek Henderson

New Zealand born 1963

**Kohaihai road, North beach, West
Coast. 10:30am, 9th February 2004**

2004, printed 2016

from *The terrible boredom of paradise* series 2005

type C photograph

ed. 11/15

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2017

Derek Henderson

New Zealand born 1963

341 Pa road, Whangara, East Cape.

12:20pm, 1st April 2005

2005, printed 2016

from *The terrible boredom of paradise* series 2005

type C photograph

ed. 2/15

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2017

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Lanciano easyrider

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.1

Carsten Höller often draws on familiar social spaces, such as amusement parks, in his work. The *Amusement park* series continues his exploration of ways in which we receive and understand visual information. The images appear blurred, as if they were printed out of register in a manner that recalls 1970s 3D photography. In doing this, Höller invokes a visual instability and the exhilarating rush associated with the vertigo-inducing delirium of amusement parks, fairground rides and psychedelic imagery.

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Torre vado Moulin Rouge

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.2

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Torre vado Disneyland

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.3

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Torre vado calci in culo

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.4

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Lignano aquasplash ondulato

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.5

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Fasano mirage

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.6

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Lanciano magic dance

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.7

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Gallipoli splash rainbow

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.8

Carsten Höller

Belgium born 1961, worked in Sweden 2000–

Lignano aquasplash anaconda

from the *Amusement park* series 2011

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene,
transparent synthetic polymer resin (frame)

Loti & Victor Smorgon Fund, 2015

2015.390.9

Pieter Hugo

South Africa born 1976

Green Point Common, Cape Town

from the *Kin* series 2013

2013

digital type C print

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2014

2014.36

Discussing his own work, Pieter Hugo wrote, 'I am interested in places where narratives collide'. Green Point Common is a historically significant site in Cape Town. Since the eighteenth century it has variously been used as pasture land, a recreational space, the location of internment and deportation camps, and home to displaced and homeless people. The history of the site can be seen as emblematic of the recent history of South Africa itself: subjugated by colonial powers, segregated by apartheid, and abandoned to decay.

Thomas Jorion

France born 1976

Toyo

2009

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene
ed. 7/8

Purchased NGV Foundation Patrons, 2017

Thomas Jorion

France born 1976

Blednik

2011

type C photograph on aluminium and polyethylene
ed. 3/8

Purchased NGV Foundation Patrons, 2017

Thomas Jorion documents ruins of urban life: spaces that have been forgotten, condemned or abandoned. With a very formal method of composition, his photographs explore ideas around the built environment as it starts to decay and fall into a state of entropy and apparent dystopia.

Lucia Koch

Brazil born 1966

Organic sugar *Açúcar orgânico*

2006

pigment print

ed. 3/6

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.568

Lucia Koch has an ongoing interest in architecture and architectural space. She works in photography, video and installation to create an altered perception of space. In this work she has combined high-resolution photography and an expansive scale to create a convincing illusion of a void. Closer examination reveals that the void is in fact an empty sugar packet, an ordinary paper bag shown on a scale that dwarfs the viewer.

Lucia Koch

Brazil born 1966

Olinda Celeste

2005

colour high definition video, silent,

5 min 26 sec

ed. 4/6

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.567

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Russian blue

2012

type C photograph, painted timber frame
ed. 3/5

Yvonne Pettengell Bequest, 2014

2014.37

Elad Lassry's elegant still-life photographs reference the treatment of products in commercial photography. In this realm, things, including both objects and people, are often photographed in the artificial world of the studio, and later reproduced in advertisements, magazines and shopping catalogues. They have a uniformity in scale and style. Lassry adopts this standardised approach in his work. As he explains, 'Everything I photograph is a display, shot straight-on in a way that flattens it out'. When shown in the context of the art museum, they appear both utilitarian and ornamental.

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Sea lion

2010

type C photograph, painted timber frame
artist's proof

Bowness Family Fund for
Contemporary Photography, 2015

2015.85

Todd McMillan

Australia born 1979

Equivalent II

from the *Equivalent* series 2014

2014

cyanotype

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2014

2014.1974

Todd McMillan

Australia born 1979

Equivalent VIII

from the *Equivalent* series 2014

2014

cyanotype

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2014

2014.1975

Todd McMillan has an ongoing interest in the sublime within the landscape tradition. In this series, he shows the sky as a shifting and infinite presence. The title of the works, *Equivalents*, is a reference to a series of photographs of clouds produced by renowned American photographer Alfred Steiglitz between 1925 and 1934. Steiglitz's photographs were finely printed black-and-white images. In contrast, McMillan's works are quite painterly in appearance, a consequence of his choice of the nineteenth-century cyanotype process. Nevertheless, they evoke a speculative wonder at the infinite expanse of the sky.

Todd McMillan

Australia born 1979

Equivalent XII

from the *Equivalent* series 2014

2014

cyanotype

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2014

2014.1977

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (11/01/2001 20:30 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.569

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in
United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (12/08/2003 21:25 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.570

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle creates works in a variety of media, including photography, that are based on natural forms and scientific ‘models’ of natural phenomena. He uses these constructed scientific frameworks to represent nature in the technological age, in this instance examining the physical manifestations of climate change. In these photographs, Manglano-Ovalle shows the changing perimeter of an Antarctic iceberg at a particular time and date, indicated in the titles, between November 2001 and February 2005, showing the constant contraction of the great ice floes in kaleidoscopic four-part images.

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (12/18/2003 05:20 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.571

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (12/30/2003 20:20 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.572

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (02/15/2005 21:55 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.574

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Spain born 1961, worked in United States 1985–

Iceberg B15 (12/30/2003 21:00 GMT)

2010

from the *Iceberg* series 2010

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.573

Robert Mapplethorpe

United States 1946–89

Alistair Butler

1980

gelatin silver photograph
artist's proof 2/3

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2016

Robert Mapplethorpe is renowned for making finely printed photographs of male nudes, portraits and flower studies. From the time he began to make photographs, around 1970, until his death in 1989, Mapplethorpe created erotically charged images that celebrated beauty and sexuality. In the early 1980s he began to photograph, and exhibit, elegant formal portraits alongside his more explicit images. He made a number of studies of Alistair Butler who, at the time he was photographed by Mapplethorpe, was a dancer with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre.

Polixeni Papapetrou

Australia born 1960

The photographer

2012

from *The dreamkeepers* series 2011–12

inkjet print

ed. 1/6

Gift of Robert Nelson through the Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program, 2015

2015.119

Polixeni Papapetrou's photographic practice investigates the wonders of play through masks, costumes and backdrops; creating the characters that seem to inhabit other times and places while considering real emotions such as hope, fear, sadness, joy and uncertainty. Works in the *Dreamkeepers* series explore the awkward transitions experienced at different phases of life. As the artist explains, 'Growing up from a child into an adolescent has some parallels to the transition from adult to aged adult. I was curious about the idea of younger people feeling old and old people feeling young'.

Polixeni Papapetrou

Australia born 1960

The holiday makers

2012

from *The dreamkeepers* series 2011–12

inkjet print

ed. 1/6

Gift of Robert Nelson through the Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program, 2015

2015.118

Polixeni Papapetrou

Australia born 1960

The wave counter

2011

from *The dreamkeepers* series 2011–12

inkjet print

ed. 2/6

Gift of Robert Nelson through the Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program, 2015

2015.117

Trent Parke

Australia born 1971

Magpie and baby bird, Adelaide

2013

from the *Black rose* series 2007–13

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2015.473

Trent Parke

Australia born 1971

Ants on a Jatz cracker biscuit, Dampier, Western Australia

2011

from the *Black rose* series 2007–13

inkjet print

ed. 4/7

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2015.470

The *Black rose* series by Trent Parke is an intensely personal project that originated as an attempt to reclaim childhood memories, and evolved into a broader exploration of place, culture, identity and the Australian landscape, as well as his own personal experiences of fatherhood. Beyond the autobiographical aspects, Parke also attempted to pose more profound questions relating to the natural world and human existence. These works have been described as a meditation on the human condition, and encompass experiences such as birth, death, love, pain, loss, memory and the passage of time.

Trent Parke

Australia born 1971

Limestone Coast, South Australia

2007

from the *Black rose* series 2007–13

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2015.472

Trent Parke

Australia born 1971

**Catfish and turtles, Roper River,
Northern Territory**

2011

from the *Black rose* series 2007–13

inkjet print

ed. 2/5

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2015.471

Paola Pivi

Italy born 1971

All white except one

2012

digital type C print

ed. 5/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.37

Paola Pivi's photograph is part of a large-scale installation that comprised full-scale, hyper-realistic reproductions of bear skin rugs that were once commonplace in grand homes. In this work, she plays an optical trick on the viewer, forcing them to question the reality of the situation and drawing attention to the differing values placed on animals and animal welfare across historical periods and cultures.

Trevor Paglen

American 1974

Untitled (Predator drone)

2012

type C photograph

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2014

2014.542

Trevor Paglen

American 1974

Untitled (Reaper drone)

2013

type C photograph

Edition 2 of 5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2014

2014.543

Trevor Paglen's work situates itself outside the superstition of conspiracy theories through meticulously thorough research, obscuring the line between the secrecy of covert government activities and the public's desire for information. In his recent body of work on military drones, Paglen captures vast and seemingly empty skylscapes reminiscent of large abstract colour field paintings. Hidden within the vivid colours of each image is a small speck of black depicting a military drone passing over various countries, such as the United States, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Trevor Paglen

American 1974

Untitled (Reaper drone)

2013

C-print

Edition 3 of 5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2014

2014.544

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Truffle goat cheese, Emmentaler, fork and spoon

2010

type C photograph, painted timber frame
edition of 5

Ruth Margaret Frances Houghton Bequest, 2015

2015.396

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Two crystals, green (red)

2012

type C photograph, painted timber frame

Donald Russell Elford and Dorothy Grace Elford Bequest, 2017

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Bow

2011

type C photograph, painted timber frame

Donald Russell Elford and Dorothy Grace Elford Bequest, 2017

Alex Praeger

United States born 1979

Crowd #9 (Sunset Five)

2013

inkjet print

Bowness Family Fund for Contemporary Photography, 2014

2014.105

Alex Praeger

United States born 1979

Crowd #11 (Cedar and Broad Street)

2013

inkjet print

Bowness Family Fund for
Contemporary Photography, 2014

2014.106

'I'm fascinated by the experience of being involved in other people's lives accidentally ... crowds have always been an interest of mine. It may look like a sea of people, but there are so many interesting stories, all colliding silently.' Alex Prager

Qiu Zhijie

China born 1969

Fine series A

1996–98

from the *Standard pose* series 1996–98

type C photograph

ed. 9/10

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.558

The photographs from Qiu Zhijie's *Standard pose* series reference the figures in propaganda images produced during the Cultural Revolution and consider the failure of the future that they promised. In the posters from the 1960s, the subjects would have appeared in the uniform dress of the period, placed in rural or factory settings, and accompanied by jingoistic slogans such as 'Learn from the workers'. Qiu's subjects appear in a studio setting with a blank backdrop and are dressed in contemporary clothes. In this environment, the overly dramatic poses and facial expressions appear odd and comical rather than heroic.

Qiu Zhijie

China born 1969

Fine series B

1996–98

from the *Standard pose* series 1996–98

type C photograph

ed. 5/10

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.559

Qiu Zhijie

China born 1969

Fine series C

1996–98

from the *Standard pose* series 1996–98

type C photograph

ed. 7/10

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.560

Qiu Zhijie

China born 1969

Fine series D

1996–98

from the *Standard pose* series 1996–98

type C photograph

ed. 5/10

Gift of Larry Warsh, 2016

2016.561

Robin Rhode

South Africa born 1976, worked in Germany 2002–

A day in May

2013

colour digital animation, 3 min 15 sec

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.569

Robin Rhode's video animation makes reference to the international Labour Day commemoration held every year on the first of May. The work shows the artist's doppelganger marching forwards and back, in and out of the frame, against a wall upon which are painted a clothesline and oversized pegs, which multiply with each frame of action. As the speed of the soundtrack increases, the protagonist is increasingly hampered by the pegs, his clothes and the clothesline. The work speaks of the tensions that arise between ideas of revolution and labour, and the restraints imposed by domesticity.

David Rosetzky

Australia born 1970

Untitled portrait (Ella)

2015

type C photograph

ed. 1/3

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2016.32

David Rosetzky has a long-held interest in exploring the notion of identity through the use of collage and photographic construction. In these portraits, photographed in a classical three-quarter view, Rosetzky has used a scalpel to make incisions into the photographic prints and cut away parts of the subjects' skin, hair and clothing, each cut revealing an alternative view of flesh and fabric. Whether those layers belong to the original subject or another person is unclear. The artist's fascination with considering the complexities of human identity and emotion are made manifest through this fragmented process of cutting and layering.

David Rosetzky

Australia born 1970

Untitled portrait (Lyu)

2015

type C photograph

ed. 1/3

Purchased, Victorian Foundation
for Living Australian Artists, 2015

2016.33

Danny Singer

Canada born 1945

Sturgus

from the *Big sky* series 2015

2015

inkjet print

ed. 1/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.488

Danny Singer

Canada born 1945

Delisle sky

from the *Big sky* series 2015

2015

inkjet print

ed. 1/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.489

At first glance, Danny Singer's photographs would appear to show abandoned rural towns in North America in which the architecture, at once homely and strangely familiar, is completely overwhelmed by the vast skies of the Great Plains. But subtle signs of life and activity can be found in these panoramic views. Over many decades, these communities have shifted from being the heartland of both Canada and the United States to forgotten backwaters. These communities, and the way of life they represent, are fast becoming lost to history. As the human activity in such places diminishes, the townships themselves begin to disappear.

Danny Singer

Canada born 1945

Gainsborough winter sky

from the *Big sky* series 2015

2015

inkjet print

ed. 4/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.487

Danny Singer

Canada born 1945

Shaunavon sky

from the *Big sky* series 2015

2015

inkjet print

ed. 3/5

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2015

2015.490

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Man (Sky blue)

2012

type C photograph, painted timber frame
ed. 1/5

Bowness Family Fund for
Contemporary Photography, 2015

2015.86

Elad Lassry

Israel born 1977, worked in United States 2003–

Woman (Ball)

2014

type C photograph, painted timber frame
ed. 1/5

Bowness Family Fund for
Contemporary Photography, 2015

2015.87

Sheng Qi

China born 1965

Memories (Me)

2000, printed 2004

type C photograph

Purchased, 2004

2004.775

Sheng Qi was a key member of the 1985 New Wave Art Movement that was based on liberal notions and freedom of expression. He was deeply affected by the oppressive political era following the Tiananmen Square protests, and responded in a physically direct and shocking way. He cut off the little finger of his left hand, buried it in a flowerpot and went into exile in Rome. When he returned to Beijing a decade later, he used his disfigured hand as the backdrop for a series of self-portraits that juxtapose his past and present.

Sheng Qi

China born 1965

Memories (Mother)

2000, printed 2004

type C photograph

Purchased, 2004

2004.776

Sheng Qi

China born 1965

Memories (Mao)

2000, printed 2004

type C photograph

Purchased, 2004

2004.777

Zhang Huan

China born 1965

Shanghai family tree

2001

type C photograph

Purchased from funds donated by
Jason Yeap and Min Lee Wong, 2008

2008.95.a-i

The faces of the two young men and the young woman in Zhang Huan's suite of nine photographs are used like the blank pages in a book, carrying an increasingly oppressive weight of words. The Chinese characters that are transcribed onto their faces gradually obliterate the men's individuality across the series. In the final photograph, the trio are shown in front of an expansive housing development with their features totally obscured, drawing a parallel between the loss of personal identity and the rapidly changing face of Shanghai itself.

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Lucky Bamboo (Dracaena)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.585

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Melati Air (Jasminum sambac)

2011–12

C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.592

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Wild plant

2011–12

C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.586

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

**Patah Tulang (Pedilanthus Pringlei
Robin)**

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.587

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Jeruk Kikit (Tripasia Trifolia P. Wills)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.588

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

**Bunga Matahari Kecil – Mini sun flower
(Tithonia Diversifolia)**

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.589

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Tehtehan (Achalypa Siamensia Oliv)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.590

Throughout his career, Edwin Roseno has been interested in the environmental and social impact of increasing industrialisation and globalisation. His photographs reflect a common domestic practice. As he explains, '*Green Hypermarket* is my escapade in catching a sight of the simple yet real practices found among Indonesians of utilising used packaging of instant food and beverages as planting media. Whether it is done consciously or not, it has somehow reversed "the commercial value" of those disposable packagings by transforming them into part of the green elements around the house'.

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Rumput Teki (Cyperus Rotundus)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.591

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Lidah Buaya (Aloevera)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.593

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Pacar air (*Impatiens Balsamina*)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.595

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Bunga amaryllis (Hippeastrum)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.594

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

**Kastuba Pointsttia (Euphorbia
Pulchorbiaseae)**

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acrylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.596

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Kaktus – Castus (Ferocactus Pilosus)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.597

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

Desember (Haemanthus Multifloraus)

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.598

Edwin Roseno

Indonesia born 1979

**Keladicaladium (Caladium Bicolor) &
Tomatoe (Solanum Lycopersicum)**

2011–12

digital C print mounted on acylic

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2013

2013.599

Richard Mosse

Ireland born 1980,

Higher ground

2012

type C photograph

Purchased NGV Foundation, 2014

2014.358

In this series, Richard Mosse has used the outdated, discontinued film stock Kodak Aerochrome. Initially developed for military purposes, this film is sensitive to infra-red light, a spectrum of light invisible to the human eye. The resulting photographs are both beautiful and troubling, and display astonishing shifts in colour; the verdant green of the jungle appearing as a fluorescing hot pink, the khaki of the man's fatigues transformed to a rich burnt umber. Describing his work, Mosse wrote, 'My photography ... was a personal struggle with the disparity between my limited powers of representation and the unspeakable world that confronted me'.