

Anywhere, Elsewhere

Curated by Tess Maunder

4 – 8 August 2015

Anywhere, Elsewhere, is an exhibition concerned with ideologies of place, and cultural identity, looking specifically through the practices of three Brisbane-based artists; Bridie Gillman, Claudia Greathead and Sancintya Simpson.

Socio-cultural Anthropologist Arjun Appadarai has suggested that in light of globalisation, mass immigration, and development of electronic media, one has to refine the notion of the 'locale'. It is no longer a specific place where one belongs but rather a social context that one could export into diaspora. The exhibition title, *Anywhere, Elsewhere*, here becomes a methodology for testing out Appadarai's ideology within a Brisbane-based context.

Drawing from her background of living in both Australia and Indonesia, Bridie Gillman's practice negotiates cross-cultural experiences. In order to prevent a collapse into any easily identifiable categories such as 'hybrid' or 'cross-cultural' she adopts an approach that is as self-critical as it is aware of contemporary post-colonial approaches to theory. Her work presented for *Anywhere, Elsewhere*, is a constellation of images taken from residency in Indonesia, Japan and Istanbul, tracing her photography practice.

Claudia Greathead's practice critiques constructed cultural values and ideologies regarding Eurocentric systems of power. She appropriates historical colonial imagery, as a method of subverting the dominant power structures. The constructed values of societal ideologies present in western culture are lent to the artwork via this process of appropriation. She presents a collection of new paintings for *Anywhere, Elsewhere*.

Sancintya Simpson's photo-media and video-based critical practice combines traditional mediums with digital platforms. Informed by her hybrid-cultural inheritance Simpson examines the complexities of race and identity within Australia, by exploring lived experiences to create dialogue on societies concealed prejudices. For *Anywhere, Elsewhere*, Simpson presents two bodies of work: *Mother and I* (2012 – 2014), and *Oriental* (2012 – 2014).

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Tess Maunder is a contemporary art curator and writer based in Brisbane. She works as Public Programs and Publications Officer at the Institute of Modern Art, delivering public programs, working with programs for the work of Hito Steyerl, Raqs Media Collective, Slavs and Tatars among others. In 2013, Maunder participated in the 5th Gwangju Biennale International Curator Course led by leading international academic and curator Maria Lind in South Korea, also in 2013; she represented Australian curatorial practice at the Independent Curators International Course held at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo. In 2014, the State Government of Queensland honoured Tess for her achievement to the arts, and she writes regularly for international publications including *Frieze*, *Fillip*, *Ocula*, *eyecontact* and *Eyeline*.