

Gerwyn Davies

Idols

5 – 19 June 2018

ARTIST STATEMENT

Idols reanimates popular iconography and myth through an assemblage of costume, performance and photography.

Conjuring characters across the political, religious, historic, this work is interested in familiar narratives that are highly contrived in nature.

Icons that are shaped and engrained in the popular imagination through their vast repetition, live rituals enacted to be made photographic, events whose very existence is questioned but for the camera as a tenuous witness. Each character re-enacted here has a previous life. They are already understood through their various representations, their prevailing cultural status owing to their ability to contort themselves in to an evocative image at the summoning of their name. Saint Sebastian, Neil Armstrong, Angelyne.

The fictitious and performative is a common thread, these characters all embrace the camera's capacity as a fictional device, a means of constructing, staging and sharing stories through the image.

Idols haunts this threshold of photography and performance, it re-enacts popular imagery, exposing it to the highly plastic processes of the digital image to explore new hypervisual potentials.

Gerwyn Davies - 2018

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Davies was born in 1985, and career highlights include a feature, "Gerwyn Davies' Beast" in the British Journal of Photography (September 2013), being a regular finalist in photographic awards, showing at Photo LA (USA) in 2011 and 2012. He held a solo exhibition at Sydney's Australian Centre for Photography in February 2018 and he will be in the upcoming Biennale of Australian Art in the Art Gallery of Ballarat later this year. He has been an academic staff member (Photography) at the University of NSW (formerly COFA) since 2017, and taught at Queensland College of Art (2012-16). Davies' work is held in private and public collections, including Artbank, Gallery at HOTA Collection and Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.