

Drew Connor Holland

Cut through the circle

16 May – 3 June 2023

Jan Murphy Gallery is pleased to present our second solo exhibition with Sydney-based artist Drew Connor Holland.

Underpinning Holland's work is an interest in how we catalogue memories: in digital archives, in junk drawers, in our heads. Using screenshots as the starting point, Holland corrodes each image with analogue reproduction processes; the finished pieces reading as dilapidated visions of their original states. The images are then printed onto hand-made paper that Holland produces by pulping the paper-based ephemera of his life (old clothes, junk mail, bills, letters, earlier artworks). The colours and focus are gentle, but the subject matter of instagram screenshots, video game avatars, selfies and stock photos are co-opted to express a range of feelings from joy through to anxiety and loneliness. The resulting images occupy a space between digital and physical, and are equally anonymous and autobiographical.

"My practice shrinks the history of mass-information into insular moments of reflection. Using a blend of contemporary, analogue, and naive tools of communication, I create works which convey a range of feelings including joy, anxiety or loneliness. Instagram screenshots, video game archives, Shutterstock photos, selfies, and virtual image dumps are collaged and altered through transformative processes: handmade paper holding personal archives create personal archaeologies; monotypes with polypropylene and watercolour pencils create uncanny fan-art; sublimation prints make corrupted images into tiny, watermarked paintings.

Every work is rendered as fragile; each differing surface absorbs or rejects elements of the image depending on their material qualities. Instead of slick and new their finish is battered and old — like a crumbling fresco or tapestry. In this state they force a gentle hand and ask for care." – Drew Connor Holland, 2023

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Drew Connor Holland (b. 1994) is a New South Wales based artist who works on Gadigal, Gayemagal and Awabakal land. Holland graduated from Sydney's National Art School in 2018 with a Master of Fine Art (Painting) and has been exhibiting since 2013 with solo exhibitions at Nasha, NSW (2022); Jan Murphy Gallery (2019); ALASKA projects, NSW (2017, 2018); and Galerie Pompom, NSW (2020). Work has been featured in group shows at the Rockhampton Museum of Art, QLD (2023); Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, QLD (2022); Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA (2022); Canberra Grammar School, ACT (2019); Sister Gallery, SA (2017); MetroArts, QLD (2017); and Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (2017). Holland's work is held in the Townsville City and Maitland Regional Art Gallery collection.