

# Martin Smith

## *Feel good hit of the summer*

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10 – 28 October 2023

*“Feel good hit of the summer* is a song by American rock band Queens of the Stone Age that repeats the name of the drugs; nicotine, valium, vicodin, marijuana, ecstasy and alcohol for 2 minutes and 41 seconds and a photo\text exhibition that interweaves photography, narrative and writing. The ways texts, images and objects can simultaneously hold two confirming, competing and conflicting meanings depending on context and vantage is a recurrent theme of the exhibition. The narrative worlds created in the exhibition through the combination of text and image weave seemingly disparate images, people and events. The appropriation of Fatima, Radiohead, Roland Barthes and mathematics intersect with vernacular photography to highlight the complexity of meaning making in an age where we have access to unimaginable information.

The exhibition brings together three series of photographs, *The divine and the irrelevant*, *One of you* and *Naked people of Taigum*. *The divine and the irrelevant* is a series that uses a famous image of the three children who witnessed the assumption of the Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917 as a portal to explore our expanding relationship with mathematics, technology and its dual capacity to create and sabotage.

*One of you* is a series of 8 components that explores the ways that singular works of art, music, literature etc can be intertwined with significant events in our lives, where one provides comfort for the other. In my case it highlights how Roland Barthes’ *Camera Lucida* provided some clarity after the passing of my sister. The series is told through a ‘master’ statement that contains 7 footnotes. The footnotes are titled by their number and are independent but linked to the master.

*Naked people of Taigum* responds to my time working at a one-hour photo-lab in the outer suburbs of Meanjin/Brisbane called *Taigum Photos*. Amongst the many images of birthdays, Christmas and holidays were images of customers flashing or performing naked for the camera. Amongst the standard documents of familiarity and confirmation these photos were records of reflexive exuberance.” – Martin Smith, 2023

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Martin Smith is a photo-text artist based in Meanjin/Brisbane. He received his Doctorate from Griffith University in 2018 and is currently a lecturer in photography at the Queensland College of Art. His work is held in a number of public collections including QAGOMA, MONA, Art Gallery of Western Australia, University of Western Australia and Edith Cowan University. With over a decade of exhibitions to his credit from Brisbane to New York and Hong Kong, Smith may be drawing on his immediate world but his visual language speaks to universal experience.