

# Mark Tweedie

## *Vagabond Hearts*

31 October – 18 November 2023

“The significance of home and our fundamental connection to place cannot be overstated. The word ‘home’ has a myriad of interpretations, from a fixed address or geographical region, to associations with specific feelings, or a collections of memories; it can also be a place that no longer exists.

*Vagabond Hearts* is about my own longing for home that has deepened with age. The works have grown from my feelings about being disconnected, alone and, in some ways, nomadic.

When I reflect on home, I am taken back to my childhood in regional Western Australia. My memories begin in the Pilbara region, before my family relocated to the coastal town of Carnarvon, where I still feel innately connected. My family moved there when I was five, but within a year had split in two and I remained there with my dad until I was a teenager; I have been longing for a lasting connection to another place ever since. Anytime I step foot in the Pilbara or Gascoyne regions I immediately feel at home.

*Vagabond Hearts* integrates my memories and thoughts about home with photographs I have found, taken, and searched for over several years. The figures in these works all stand alone, and their connections to their surroundings vary; they are not at home, rather they are wanderers or outsiders. The locations depict regional Australia, and several works are based on areas I undertook residences in, including Albany and Esperance.

My work continues to pay homage to photography and its rightful position in the centre of the family mantelpiece. The candid nature of analogue photographs often presents a vulnerability to subjects that has been erased by the digital age. These paintings utilise the medium’s emotive aesthetics whilst recontextualising the original subject matter to create new imagery and imagined narratives.”

– Mark Tweedie, 2023

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Tweedie (b. 1982, Perth) has been an exhibiting artist since 2012. Recent career highlights include being a finalist in the Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2022) and being shortlisted for the John Stringer Prize (2020). He is a four-time finalist in the Kilgour Prize (2014, 2017, 2018, 2021) and in 2016 he was named as the inaugural winner of the Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize at the Art Gallery of Western Australia’s Black Swan Prize (now The Lester Prize). Tweedie has undertaken a number of significant regional residencies in Western Australia including to Esperance and the Pilbara region.

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