NICHOLAS MANGAN: LIMITS TO GROWTH

EXHIBITION DATES
20 July – 17 September 2016

OPENING FUNCTION
Wednesday 20 July 2016, 6-8pm
With remarks by Dr Amelia Barikin, Lecturer in Art History, School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland

INTRODUCTION
Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA premieres the first survey exhibition of Melbourne-based artist, Nicholas Mangan.

Limits to Growth brings together five major projects made by Mangan between 2009 and 2016. Each of these works comprise film, photography and sculpture, and alternately pivot around the artist’s interests in deep or geological time, the human relationship to the natural environment (particularly the political economy of the energy industry), and the complex dynamics of contemporary capitalism.

At MUMA each of these discreet installations possesses a geographic specificity, emerging from materials, histories and narratives from the Asia Pacific, and reflecting on Australia’s role within the region. Nauru – Notes from a cretaceous world 2009–10 explores the boom and bust economy of Nauru; Progress in Action considers Indigenous activism against mining corporations in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea; while a newly commissioned work, titled Limits to Growth, takes as its starting point the ancient currency Rai, comparing these large stone coins from the Micronesian island of Yap to one of the newest global digital currencies, Bitcoin.

MUMA’s Director and exhibition co-curator Charlotte Day: “Mangan is a consummate storyteller, who has developed a series of ingenious mechanisms to deliver compelling narratives of evolution and entropy”. The exhibition will transform the galleries into a series of immersive encounters that explore the intersection between ecology, economics and sustainability through the use of natural materials such as coconut biofuel and solar energy.

Day again: “In these projects by Mangan energy itself is made palpable and we are made aware of the increasing disconnect between the deep time of the Earth and the expediency of the present”.

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Nicholas Mangan: Limits to Growth continues MUMA’s much anticipated and celebrated annual survey exhibition series that presents the practices of Australia’s most exciting and innovative mid-career artists. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 262-page fully illustrated publication designed by Ziga Testen and published in association with Sternberg Press. It includes newly commissioned texts by Ana Teixeira Pinto and Helen Hughes, along with a long-form interview between the artist and Barcelona-based curatorial office, Latitudes.

The exhibition and publication Nicholas Mangan: Limits to Growth is co-produced by Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne; Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane; and Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin. The new commission, Limits to Growth (2016) is co-commissioned by Monash University Museum of Art and the Institute of Modern Art, and has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. MUMA also acknowledges the generous support of Peter Braithwaite and Julie and Gary Grossbard towards this exhibition.

BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Mangan is represented by Sutton Gallery, Melbourne; LABOR, Mexico City; and Hopkinson Mossman, Auckland.

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