SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY

INTRODUCING

ANNA CAREY

17.10.23 - 04.11.23

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ANNA CAREY

In anticipation of Anna Carey's new series to be unveiled as part of PHOTO2024, Sophie Gannon Gallery presents *INTRODUCING* a survey exhibition of select images from the artist's previous series.

Anna Carey is an Australian artist based between the Gold Coast and Los Angeles whose work overlaps photography, model-making, film, and drawing. Through memory and imagination, she creates fictive architectural spaces based on familiar iconic architecture which she photographs. The camera lens magnifies the model with all its imperfections and reminds the viewer that the photograph has been constructed with a miniature materialized object. This aims to reawaken imaginations for the viewer by creating a space of stillness and reflection for one to drift between reality and daydreams – for rediscovering the universe that is inside us. At first glance this disorientates the viewer, however dwelling longer the miniature encourages a moment of stillness for one to be with the space.

The spaces Carey creates stem from childhood memories of her hometown, the Gold Coast. "… When I encounter familiar spaces, fragmented memories and imaginations flood my new experience. The work mines this fleeting moment in my mind from which the models are then built. In turn, I create a space of the imagination where I inhabit my daydreams and the viewer can inhabit theirs…."

The style of architecture from the Gold Coast that is embedded in the artists memory includes a vernacular mix of holiday shacks, high-rises, roadside motels, and suburban homes. The city and its architecture were built on notions of leisure, fantasy, escape and change, looking to places in America for architectural inspiration. This style of architecture emerged and developed rapidly in the United States, especially in the automotive orientated cities of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. Early in her practice she was depicting the architecture of the Gold Coast to represent the fluid city and gain a sense of place. As her practice developed, expanding her research to the cities the Gold Coast copied and travelled to America, where she later relocated to reflect on this style of strip city from a global perspective.

Since traveling to America her work has developed to represent a more global generic architectural style. This can be seen in the series *Stardust* (2015), which consists of a suite of ten images of Stardust motels in different parts of America and Australia. To create the works, she sourced images on the internet through vintage postcards and then revisited them through Google Maps. The works exist in both 'then' and 'now' versions to show how the buildings have changed over time. The series uses international examples of Stardust motels to exemplify the world-wide homogeneity of a style of architecture in distant yet connected contemporary cultures. In addition, presenting a set of similar motels also provides an opportunity to identify minute details and idiosyncrasies particular to place.

This notion of place that emerges through generic architecture is further explored in the series *In Search of Rainbows* (2017), which consists of interior spaces dominated by a single colour – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and pink – similar to the rainbow spectrum. Employing Google Maps, she used the online data for colour-mapping and geo-tagged colour clusters to identify dominant colours across the world. The work explores the connection between place, space, memory and colour, and its ability to evoke a sensory rush. Carey merges research lived experience, and global dream memory to form a place that could be anywhere. By drawing from international generic spaces, Carey aim for others to inhabit the daydreams 'housed' within them. Accessing this dream realm allows people to have their own authentic experience with a space that is mass produced and typically understood as 'inauthentic.' Transcending the homogeneity of the everyday into a dream state of dislocation invites people to identify difference and indifference and therefore reconnect with themselves and place themselves in the world.

The *Faraway* series further explores the idea of a global architectural style and dream memory. Carey shifted her focus from iconic motels and holiday homes in predominately postmodern cities in Australia and North America to other places in the world such as Europe. "…The works are based on walking the streets when travelling and being triggered like a 'Proustian' moment of recalling memories that evoke a familiar feeling like déjà vu, as if I had been there before. This process emulates the creation of homes and motels in Australia in which people create their own suburban castles by mixing vernacular and international styles to create a sense of fantasy and escape while at home. Permeating *Faraway* is a longing for escapism as the promise of escape has always underpinned holiday destinations, tourist cities and even sometimes the local suburbs…". Excerpts originally published in Artist Profile, Issue 50, 2020.

210 Bedwell Ave Woodbine...Then, 2015 (Stardust Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
74 x 109 cm (framed)
$3250 incl. GST

910 Collins Ave Miami...Then, 2015 (Stardust Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
70 x 105 cm
$3250 incl. GST framed

84 Frank St, Surfers Paradise...Then, 2015 (Stardust Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
70 x 105 cm
$3250 incl. GST framed

Orange Sun, 2017 (In Search of Rainbows Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
90 x 134 cm (framed)
$3950 incl. GST

Blue Pearl, 2017 (In Search of Rainbows Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
90 x 134 cm (framed)
$3950 incl. GST

Yellow Moon, 2017 (In Search of Rainbows Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
90 x 134 cm (framed)
$3950 incl. GST

Purple Sage, 2017 (In Search of Rainbows Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
90 x 134 cm
$3950 incl. GST framed

Red Rose, 2017 (In Search of Rainbows Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
90 x 134 cm (framed)
$3950 incl. GST

Green Lantern Chateau, 2020 (Faraway Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
93 x 138 cm (framed)
$4950 incl. GST

Palazzo Place, 2020 (Faraway Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
93 x 138 cm
$4950 incl. GST framed

Amour Motel, 2020 (Faraway Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
93 x 138 cm (framed)
$4950 incl. GST

Dream Cloud, 2020 (Faraway Series)
Giclée print
edition of 7 + 2 A/P
93 x 138 cm (framed)
$4950 incl. GST

ANNA CAREY

EDUCATION

2021	Doctor of Visual Arts, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane Australia
2007 - 2010	Bachelor of Visual Media with Honors (First Class), Griffith University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021	Stars of the Grass, Artereal Gallery Sydney, NSW
	In Search of Rainbows and Stardust, LAX Airport Terminal One, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, CAL
2020	Faraway and Déjà vu, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, QLD
	Faraway Artereal Gallery Sydney, NSW
2018	Stardust, Soho House, Hollywood, Los Angeles
2017	In Search of Rainbows, Artereal Gallery Sydney, NSW
2015	Stardust, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD
2014	Twilight, Artereal Gallery Sydney, NSW
	Preludes, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD
2012	Mirage, Artereal Gallery, Sydney, Queensland Centre for Photography, Brisbane, QLD

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021	Irvine All Media Prize, Irvine Arts Centre, Irvine CAL
	HOTA Collects, HOTA, Gold Coast, QLD
2020	Built Forms, Redcliffe Art Gallery, Morton Bay, QLD
	Venice Family Clinic Art Auction, Artsy, Los Angeles
2019	William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize, Monash Galler, VIC
	Sydney Contemporary, Artereal Gallery, Carriage Works, Sydney NSW
	Venice Family Art Clinic Art Auction, Google, Venice, Los Angeles
	The Collectors Space, 541 Art Space, Sydney
2018	We are Gold Coast, Gold Coast City Art Gallery QLD
	I can paint a Rainbow, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW
	Ravenswood Australian Women's Art prize, Ravenswood Centenary Centre
2017	Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, QLD
	Sydney Contemporary, Artereal Gallery, Carriage Works, Sydney NSW
2016	Focus Photo l.a, Berlin Art Week, Berlin, Germany
	Home, Auckland Festival of Photography, Auckland, NZ
2015	Video Contemporary, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSWCMI
	Photo Independent, Raleigh Studios, Hollywood Los Angeles, USA
	Reconstructed, PYO Gallery, Downtown Los Angeles, USA
	Photo L.A, The Reef, Downtown Los Angeles, USA
2014	David Malouf and Friends, Museum of Brisbane, QLD
	Fibro Coast, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD
	The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Brisbane QLD

AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

2023	Sunshine Coast Art Prize - Highly Commended
2019	NG Art Creative Residency, Provence, France.
2013	Acquired, The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD
2012	Australian Postgraduate Award, Department of Industry, Australian Government, Canberra
	New Work Emerging Grant, Australian Council for the Arts, NSW
2010	Honors Best Research Project, Bachelor of Visual Media, QLD
	Griffith University Academic Excellence Award, Griffith University, QLD
2009	Godfrey Rivers Medal, Best studio based work, Bachelor of Visual Media, QLD

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Queensland. Corrigan Collection Sydney, Gadens Lawyers, Brisbane
Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland , Gold Coast University Hospital, Southport, Queensland
Grantpirrie Private Collection, Sydney and New York, USA
Soho House, Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood USA, The Macquarie Group Collection, Sydney
The University of Queensland, Brisbane , Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California , National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

New
Galaxy
Canon
EOS

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