

FUTURE PERFECT



Christian Thompson, *Invaded Dreams*, 2012; C-type print, 100x100cm

Christian Thompson New Works

Future Perfect, Singapore
at Gillman Barracks
14 September - 14 October 2012

Opening reception and
launch of Gillman Barracks
14 September, 6:30 - 10:00pm

For immediate release

Contemporary Dreaming: Future Perfect launches in Singapore with mercurial Australian talent

Future Perfect is proud to present new work by a rising star of Australian contemporary art, Christian Thompson, in his first ever solo exhibition in Singapore.

Suspended somewhere between the glam and the goth, between the anthropological and the downright weird, Christian Thompson's work is about how we humans animate our objects, and how they animate us. He is best known for his arresting self-portraits, posed with items of iconic Australian native flora and arcane sartorial trimmings. His urban Dreaming is an uncanny montage of the colonial with the contemporary, laced with hints of grainy reality and flirtations with suburban bad taste.

Thompson stands at the forefront of a new generation of artists giving a contemporary, urban face to indigenous experience. His work probes the complex layers of Aboriginal identity, with its unquiet histories, amidst the flux of a cosmopolitan present. Always the performer, Thompson explores how indigenous bodies have been shaped by the Western gaze, particularly through the techniques of ethnography and photography. The works in this new show are inspired by his research into the ethnographic collection of Oxford University's famous Pitt Rivers Museum. Thompson breathes new life into old images and things, reviving a magic long dormant, but perhaps still felt in every culture.

'Australian indigenous artists have long been at the cutting edge of contemporary art, but in a place like Singapore we still get a one-dimensional view of Aboriginal culture,' says Future Perfect director, David Teh. 'Christian digs deeper than the touristic stereotype, into an imperial heritage that Australia and Singapore share. We're thrilled to be launching our space with this stunning new body of work.'

About the Artist

Born in South Australia in 1978, Christian Thompson is a Bidjara man of the Kunja Nation from southwest Queensland, and also has European heritage. His art springs from a profound connection with his country, his people and their unique history. With degrees from the University of Southern Queensland, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Amsterdam School of Arts, he is currently pursuing a doctorate at Oxford University. He is the first Aboriginal Australian ever to be admitted to that institution. Christian's work has been exhibited widely across Australia, in major biennales and in this year's National Indigenous Art Triennial. Further afield, he has participated in recent group exhibitions in Spain, the U.K., the Netherlands, Canada, the U.S. and South Korea. His work is held in major private and public collections including those of the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria, Queensland Art Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), Art Gallery of Western Australia, The Sordello Missana Collection, The Myer Collection, The Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton Collection, and the AAMU Collection in the Netherlands.

About Future Perfect

Future Perfect is a contemporary art gallery located in Singapore's ambitious new art precinct, Gillman Barracks. Working with an international roster of artists, the gallery also provides research and advice for institutions and collectors, drawing on its directors' extensive experience and expertise in contemporary art from Asia, Australia and beyond. The Gillman Barracks precinct is a flagship project of Singapore's Economic Development Board, comprising 15 contemporary art galleries set to launch this September. Future Perfect is the only Australian gallery invited to participate in this exciting initiative.

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Gallery Hours:

Wed-Sat, 12-7pm; Sun, 11am-4pm



Christian Thompson, *Three Sisters*, 2012; C-type print, 100x100cm