



BATHURST REGIONAL ART GALLERY

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THE UNFLINCHING GAZE: photo media and the male figure

First major Australian photographic exhibition of the male figure through LGBTI eyes including Robert Mapplethorpe, Robert Wilson and William Yang

Two hundred photos and videos by sixty two leading artists (twenty four Australian and thirty eight international) will be exhibited at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) from **Saturday 14 October until Sunday 3 December 2017**.

The Hon. Don Harwin, MLC, NSW Minister for the Arts will open the exhibition on **Saturday October 14 at 6pm**.

Curated by BRAG Director Richard Perram OAM, an openly gay man, *The Unflinching Gaze: photo media and the male figure* surveys how the male figure has been depicted by Australian and international artists in photo media over the last 140 years. It includes historic and contemporary fine art photography and film, fashion photography, pop videos and homoerotic art. Images range from the beautiful to the banal to the confounding.

Key artists in the exhibition include iconic American artists Robert Mapplethorpe, Andy Warhol, and avant-garde theatre director Robert Wilson with a video portrait of Brad Pitt; European artists such as Eadweard Muybridge, and Baron Wilhelm Von Gloeden; and historic and contemporary Australian artists including Beaufoy Merlin and Charles Bayliss, Max Dupain, Deborah Kelly, William Yang, Gary Carsley, Owen Leong and Liam Benson. Works have been sourced from Australian and international collections, including a major loan of 60 works from the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York.

The exhibition brings an unflinching gaze to how concepts of humanity and the male figure are intertwined and challenged. Themes include the Pink Triangle, which deals with the persecution, torture and genocide of homosexuals in concentration camps during World War II to those in Chechnya today; and the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

The Unflinching Gaze exhibition is a unique opportunity for audiences in the Bathurst Region to access a world class photo-media exhibition, says Richard Perram OAM. The Unflinching Gaze not only deals with aesthetic concerns but also engages the community in a discussion around social issues.

BRAG is working with local Bathurst LGBTI community groups to ensure that one of the most important outcomes of the exhibition will be to inform and educate the general Bathurst community and support and affirm the Bathurst LGBTI community.

A number of public programs will accompany the exhibition, including a series of symposia featuring leading international and Australian artists, academics and curators discussing contemporary art, LGBTI issues, and 'queer' curating. This symposia will be held at BRAG on Saturday 14 October, 10am – 4pm, and at the University of Technology, Sydney, on Wednesday 18 October.

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The Unflinching Gaze: photo media and the male figure is a Bathurst Regional Art Gallery exhibition in partnership with Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York. Curated by Richard Perram OAM. This exhibition is supported by the Dobell Exhibition Grant, funded by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and managed by Museums & Galleries of NSW.



IMAGES: OWEN LEONG *Milkteeth* 2014, archival pigment print on cotton paper. edition of 5 + 2AP, 120 x 120cm. Courtesy the artist and Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
UNKNOWN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER, *Two Men*, date unknown, glass photo negative. Collection of Luke Roberts. TODD FULLER and AMY HILL, *They're Only Words* (still) 2009, film, 2:42 mins. Courtesy the artists and May Space Gallery, Sydney