

MEDIA RELEASE

Episodes: Australian Photography Now

**13th Dong Gang International Photo Festival
Dong Gang Museum of Photography, Korea**

18 July – 21 September 2014

Artists: Polly Borland, Michael Cook, Destiny Deacon & Virginia Fraser, Paul Knight, Tracey Moffatt, Polixeni Papapetrou, Trent Parke, Patrick Pound, Martin Smith, Christian Thompson and William Yang

Curated by: Natalie King, curator, writer and Senior Research Fellow, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne (Australia) & Youngmi Park, committee member of Dong Gang International Photo Festival and Senior Curator of Parkgeonhi Foundation (Korea)

Episodes: Australian Photography Now is a landmark exhibition of contemporary Australian photography at Korea's premier photography museum, the Dong Gang Museum of Photography. Since 2009, five guest countries have been invited to curate a substantial exhibition including France, Germany, USA, Japan and UK with partners from the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Bauhaus University and Pompidou Centre.

Episodes: Australian Photography Now brings together the work of 12 Australian photographers around the notion of psychological, soap opera and serial episodes. Importantly, a high proportion of the artists are Aboriginal thereby reflecting the potency and politics of contemporary indigenous photography. Whether Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser's scenes of family members acting out or Christian Thompson veiling his face in colonial accouterments, each artist works with the episodic in evocative ways. Polly Borland shrouds her subjects including musician Nick Cave in lycra attire and Trent Parke waited on a street corner in Adelaide for three weeks to capture the unpredictability of the passerby. Polixeni Papapetrou dresses her son in a shredded warfare costume posed in Australian landscapes; Tracey Moffatt depicts a quintessential

Queensland home with a silhouetted character ominously looming in the foreground as part of an incomplete narrative. Patrick Pound assiduously gathers found photographs recreated into clustered scenarios and William Yang returns us to the self, his Chinese and gay community to elicit a sense of place and belonging. Martin Smith overlays poetic texts and Paul Knight splices the photographic plane with intimate images of couples embracing. Together, these artists flex the camera's hold on the episodic.

Dong Gang Museum of Photography, Korea

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Destiny Deacon *Cousins* 2011 Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney



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