



1199

CHERIE PAID: HELD

In response to the social, environmental and economic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on Australian artists and society at large, MGA has commissioned artists, Jane Burkin, Cherie Paik, Lucien Browne & Ann Brownlow, Phuong Ngo, and James Taylor to respond creatively with new bodies of work for the exhibition STAGES: photography through the pandemic.

The significance of work and leisure routines, and the liberty of everyday behaviours are taken for granted are never better understood than when the right and ability to do them is taken away. Photographers image the spaces between us, whether physical or psychological, be it through portraits or landscapes, within the domestic sphere or the public realm, and in each, they seek in profound isolation to provide insight into the curtailing of liberties and the disruption of routine.

Our experience of a twenty-first century response, led by government, to the global pandemic is paradoxical. On the one hand we must work online and remain in the safe-haven of home, while on the other hand the streets are from the real world experience of a pandemic that is being mediated through the 24 hour news cycle. These circumstances of rapid change mark a paradigm shift to the way artists live and work.

As a strategic response to the impacts of the pandemic, MGA draws upon our dynamic network of partner institutions and colleagues within the Australian photography community and invited them to contribute to the STAGES commissions whose practice responds strongly to the relevant themes. The STAGES commissions seeks to support artistic practice in times of economic pressure and to creatively reflect on our collective path through the pandemic phenomenon.



STAGES: photography through the pandemic

STAGES

In response to the social, environmental and economic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on Australian artists and society at large, MGA has commissioned artists, Jane Burkin, Cherie Paik, Lucien Browne & Ann Brownlow, Phuong Ngo, and James Taylor to respond creatively with new bodies of work for the exhibition STAGES: photography through the pandemic.

The significance of work and leisure routines, and the liberty of everyday behaviours are taken for granted are never better understood than when the right and ability to do them is taken away. Photographers image the spaces between us, whether physical or psychological, be it through portraits or landscapes, within the domestic sphere or the public realm, and in each, they seek in profound isolation to provide insight into the curtailing of liberties and the disruption of routine.

Our experience of a twenty-first century response, led by government, to the global pandemic is paradoxical. On the one hand we must work online and remain in the safe-haven of home, while on the other hand the streets are from the real world experience of a pandemic that is being mediated through the 24 hour news cycle. These circumstances of rapid change mark a paradigm shift to the way artists live and work.

As a strategic response to the impacts of the pandemic, MGA draws upon our dynamic network of partner institutions and colleagues within the Australian photography community and invited them to contribute to the STAGES commissions whose practice responds strongly to the relevant themes. The STAGES commissions seeks to support artistic practice in times of economic pressure and to creatively reflect on our collective path through the pandemic phenomenon.

Artists

Jane Burkin, Cherie Paik and Lucien Browne & Ann Brownlow, Phuong Ngo, James Taylor

Curator

Annales Pirovacka

Commissioning organisation (MGA)

Annales Pirovacka (Director), David Byrne (Executive Director), Shela Lakshmin (Curator)

Photobook exhibition designer

Sam White

Project supported by

Arts Australia Council and the Australia China Art Foundation

Phil Considine

Yusef Alsharrah & Andrew Park, The Institute of Contemporary Studies, Michael Jarmol, Edward Richardson and Richard & Jane Thompson

MCGILL CREATIVE CENTRE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

mga

ARTS AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

STAGES Playspace



STAGES Playspace
Melbourne, Victoria, 2020

Commissioned by the Australia China Art Foundation
and the Institute of Contemporary Studies
University of Melbourne
in partnership with
Arts Australia Council
and MGA























