In 1832, Joann Wolfgang von Goethe, the German writer, poet and thinker, died unexpectedly whilst convalescing at home. In the moments before his passing he requested that his servant open the shutters, and tracing these through the air with his finger he spoke his final words – ‘more light’. Thomas Bernhard, the Austrian novelist and poet, tells a story of a man who was committed to a lunatic asylum because he claimed at every opportunity that Goethe's last words were in fact 'mehr nicht', not 'mehr licht' – meaning 'no more' rather than 'more light'. In *No More Light* I draw on ideas related to the sublime, inspired by Goethe's last words exploring the poetics of 'illumination' and 'absolute darkness'.

*No More Light* is composed of four video works: *After the Deluge*, *Whisky in the Kitchen*, *Thomas*, and *After Windermere*. Each used digitally altered analogue overhead projectors. Their illumination drew reference to Arthur Rimbaud’s uncompleted suite of poems *Illuminations* (1873-4), the order of which is still questioned today. The structure of *No More Light* also investigates non-linear narrative akin to Rimbaud’s symbolist poetry.

*No more light* was initially exhibited at GRANTPIRRIE, Sydney (12 May-18 June 2011). It was also included in the group exhibitions: *Where there is water*, Lake Macquarie Art Gallery curated by Merlyn Ryan; and *How Yesterday Remembers Tomorrow*, Artspace, Sydney. Most significantly *After the Deluge* was included in a ten year survey exhibition of my work, *Ten Years of Tears*, at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), curated by Nicole Durling, 2013.
TODD MCMILLAN
After the deluge

Installation views
TODD MCMILLAN
After the deluge

Installation views
TODD MCMILLAN

After the deluge

‘After the deluge’ in Ten Years of Tears, Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), 19 June - 16 September 2013
After the deluge

Supporting evidence

Excerpts from Ten Years of Tears catalogue
TODD MCMILLAN
After the deluge

Supporting evidence

Excerpts from Ten Years of Tears catalogue

Video Link

Todd McMillan 'no more light' at Grantpirrie Gallery, Youtube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARDUvVbhA